

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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October 4, 2017

Ms. Kellyanne Conway
Counselor to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Conway:

I am writing to request information on all private, non-commercial, or military flights that you have taken since assuming your position in the White House, including all flights you took with former Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price.

Before he resigned last Friday, Secretary Price apologized for abusing the public trust, promised not to take any more private flights, and pledged to repay his travel expenses on all charter and military flights, which reportedly cost nearly \$52,000.¹

Despite the fact that you joined Secretary Price on several of these flights, you have not made any similar public statements indicating whether your own actions were appropriate, whether you will continue to take such flights at taxpayer expense in the future, or whether you plan to personally repay the taxpayers for the costs of your seats on these flights.

According to news reports, you joined Secretary Price on multiple private flights throughout the year, from at least May through September. For example, on September 21, 2017, *Politico* reported:

But rather than fly commercially to these events, which are scheduled well in advance, Price tends to rent corporate-style jets. Sometimes, he ferries big-name guests along with him. In May, Price and Kellyanne Conway—the White House counselor and former Trump campaign manager who traveled with Price to Philadelphia last week to tour an addiction treatment center—made stops in four different states in the span of two days.² The article continued:

¹ *Tom Price Apologizes for Private-Charter Flights, Pledges to Repay Taxpayers Nearly \$52,000*, Washington Post (Sept. 28, 2017) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2017/09/28/tom-price-apologizes-for-private-charter-flights/?tid=a_inl&utm_term=.b6ac9b7c48df).

² *Price Traveled by Private Plane At Least 24 Times*, Politico (Sept. 21, 2017) (online at www.politico.com/story/2017/09/21/tom-price-private-charter-plane-flights-242989).

The pair traveled to Lansing, Michigan, and Charleston, West Virginia, for opioid-related meetings in the morning and early afternoon on May 9. That happened to be the same day Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey. On May 10, Conway and Price were in Augusta, Maine, and Concord, New Hampshire, for more opioid-related events.³

Before he resigned last week, Secretary Price issued a statement of “regret”:

All of my political career, I’ve fought for the taxpayers. It is clear to me that in this case, I was not sensitive enough to my concern for the taxpayer. I know as well as anyone that the American people want to know that their hard-earned dollars are being spent wisely by government officials.⁴

He also committed to repaying the costs of his “seat” on those flights:

Today, I will write a personal check to the U.S. Treasury for the expenses of my travel on private charter planes. The taxpayers won’t pay a dime for my seat on those planes. No exceptions.⁵

In contrast to Secretary Price, you have been silent about your actions, you have made no commitments to stop traveling on private flights, and you have not assured the American taxpayers that they will not have to pay a dime for your seat on these flights.

For these reasons, I request that you provide a full explanation of your past actions with respect to these expensive flights and that you describe whether or not you plan to repay the American taxpayers, as Secretary Price did.

I also request that you provide, by October 18, 2017, the following documents relating to private non-commercial and military flights taken by you from January 20, 2017, to the present:

- (1) the number of flights, the location of their departures and arrivals, and complete lists of all passengers and guests;
- (2) the full costs for each flight, including all associated or related transportation costs;
- (3) the cost of your seat on these flights and anyone joining at your request; and
- (4) all documents referring or relating to the following for each of the flights: (a) the purpose(s) for the flight; (b) the person, organization, or agency that paid for the

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Statement of HHS Secretary Tom Price, M.D., Regarding Private Charter Airplane Travel*, Department of Health and Human Services (Sept. 28, 2017) (online at www.hhs.gov/about/news/2017/09/28/hhs-secretary-price-statement-on-private-charter-airplane-travel.html).

⁵ *Id.*

Ms. Kellyanne Conway

Page 3

flight; (c) the official approval given to take the flight; (d) the awareness of other administration officials that you were taking the flight; and (e) the justification of the need for the flight compared to flying commercial or other forms of transportation.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Todd Phillips at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member

cc. The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman