

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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August 22, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Yesterday, President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, pleaded guilty to multiple federal crimes and directly implicated President Trump in directing these crimes.

Mr. Cohen stated during his court appearance yesterday that President Trump directed him to make payments to two women during the 2016 presidential election campaign to prevent them from disclosing affairs they reported having with him. Referring to President Trump, Mr. Cohen stated that he committed these crimes "for the principal purpose of influencing the election" and "in coordination with and at the direction of a candidate for federal office."¹

Now that Mr. Cohen has pleaded guilty to these crimes, he is willing to testify before Congress. In a television appearance last night, Mr. Cohen's attorney, Lanny Davis, stated: "you saw in court today he not only implicated, he specifically, under oath, stated that Donald Trump directed him to commit a crime, making Donald Trump as much guilty of that felony as my client, Mr. Cohen." Mr. Davis also stated that "if asked by any authority"—including "any Congressional committee"—Mr. Cohen "will tell the truth. Of that I am certain."²

In a television appearance this morning, Mr. Davis added that he believes Mr. Cohen would testify without a grant of immunity.³

¹ *Cohen Pleads Guilty, Implicating the President*, New York Times (Aug. 22, 2018) (online at www.nytimes.com). See also *Michael Cohen Pleads Guilty in Manhattan Federal Court to Eight Counts, Including Criminal Tax Evasion and Campaign Finance Violations*, Department of Justice (Aug. 21, 2018) (online at www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/michael-cohen-pleads-guilty-manhattan-federal-court-eight-counts-including-criminal-tax); Criminal Information, *United States v. Cohen* (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 21, 2018) (online at www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/press-release/file/1088966/download).

² *Cuomo Prime Time*, CNN (Aug. 21, 2018) (online at <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/1808/21/CPT.01.html>).

³ *Lanny Davis: Michael Cohen Would Testify to Congress About Trump Without Immunity*, CNN (Aug. 22, 2018) (online at www.cnn.com/2018/08/22/politics/lanny-davis-michael-cohen-testify-no-immunity-cnntv/index.html).

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These are extremely serious crimes that implicate the fundamental underpinnings of our democracy, and they warrant robust and credible oversight by Congress as an independent Constitutional check on the Executive Branch.

Given the gravity of these revelations, I request that you schedule a hearing as soon as possible before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to obtain sworn testimony directly from Mr. Cohen.

I have no doubt that you would convene immediate hearings on these matters if the occupant of the White House were a Democrat. I ask you to apply the same standard here.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member