

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 1, 2019

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
United State House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cummings:

I write concerning the Committee's ongoing inquiry into security clearance processes at the White House. As the Counsel to the President stated in a letter to you on February 25, 2019, we "remain committed to accommodating legitimate requests for information, consistent with the principle of separation of powers and the constitutional prerogatives of the President."

As the Committee and its staff undoubtedly know, this office has actively cooperated with the Committee's inquiry and provided a detailed briefing on March 20, 2019 concerning the policies and procedures relating to the White House security clearance process. We also made documents on the subject available for review by the Committee's staff. Despite my office's good faith accommodations of the Committee's requests on a matter that concerns core constitutional equities of the President, the Committee has announced that it plans to issue a subpoena to former White House employee Carl Kline on April 2, 2019.

The Committee's resort to compulsory process is premature. Mr. Kline only obtained counsel over this past weekend and the Committee has only engaged with his counsel today. In any event, the White House will further accommodate the Committee by permitting Mr. Kline to discuss, voluntarily and on the record, the security clearance policies and procedures in effect throughout his tenure as Personnel Security Director. Such an accommodation should permit the Committee to obtain the information it needs to legislate while protecting the significant privacy interests of White House employees and the constitutional prerogatives of the President. I sincerely hope the Committee will accept this accommodation as part of our ongoing dialogue on these issues. As always, I am available to discuss this offer with you or Committee staff.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Purpura

Deputy Counsel to the President