

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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December 12, 2017

The Honorable Lois Frankel
Chair
Democratic Women's Working Group
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Democratic Women's Working Group:

Thank you for your letter sent on December 12, 2017, asserting, inter alia, criminal allegations against the President of the United States.

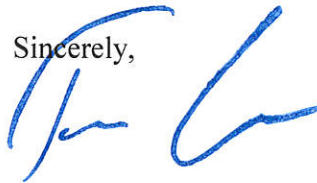
As some of you may be aware, prior to running for Congress, I spent nearly two decades as a prosecutor at both the state and federal levels. Among the most significant, difficult, and emotional cases were those involving allegations of physical and sexual abuse against women. It is impossible to adequately capture the physical and emotional toll these crimes, the subsequent investigations and ultimate prosecutions take on the victims, and the courage it takes for individuals to come forward with deeply personal accounts. The victims deserved and received our compassion, patience, and gratitude at both the U.S Attorney's Office and the District Attorney's Office while I was there.

The specific allegations set forth in your letter constitute crimes. While allegations involving alleged assaults occurring in air space may well involve federal law enforcement and federal prosecutors, the other allegations appear to allege violations of state laws. To this end we are sending a copy of your letter to the Department of Justice albeit with the understanding the Department does not have jurisdiction over state law violations.

This Committee, nor any other Committee of Congress, does not, and cannot, prosecute crimes. This is true for many reasons but especially true in crimes of this serious nature. Those alleging sexual assault or criminal sexual conduct deserve to be interviewed by law enforcement professionals, and charging decisions should be made by prosecutors based on the quantum and quality of the admissible and provable evidence.

Allegations brought forth now or in the future that, while serious, do not allege violations of specific criminal statutes, should be referred to the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over allegations related to fitness for office and non-criminal matters.

Sincerely,



Trey Gowdy

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
The Honorable Jeff Sessions, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Committee on the Judiciary