

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 26, 2025

The Honorable JD Vance  
Vice President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
Secretary  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary  
Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary  
Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Michael Waltz  
National Security Advisor  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard  
Director  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
1500 Tysons McLean Drive  
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable John Ratcliffe  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
1724 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Vice President Vance, Director Gabbard, Secretary Rubio, Secretary Bessent, Secretary Hegseth, Mr. Waltz, and Director Ratcliffe:

We write with great alarm regarding *The Atlantic* report that you, as members of the National Security Council and President's Cabinet, participated in a series of highly sensitive conversations on the free and open-source Signal messaging application to plan a military operation in Yemen and shared highly sensitive, potentially classified information with a person who was not authorized to receive such information.<sup>1</sup> We demand an immediate briefing to assist Congress in understanding the extent of the damage and intelligence exposure that this reckless and unrestricted transmission of highly sensitive national security information has caused, as well as the parameters and legality of senior officials using Signal to communicate and delete deliberative messages.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans*, The Atlantic (Mar. 24, 2025) (online at [www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/)).

As public reporting has shown, on March 13, 2025, National Security Advisor Mike Waltz created a group chat on Signal and added multiple senior members of the President's Cabinet and national security team: Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, Central Intelligence Agency Director John Ratcliffe, White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, and Vice President JD Vance. *The Atlantic* Editor-in-Chief Jeffrey Goldberg was also added to this group chat inadvertently by Mr. Waltz.

The senior Trump Administration officials went on to discuss the merits of a strike on the Houthis rebel group in Yemen, including relevant concerns about U.S. national interests and impacts on American allies. Mr. Hegseth outlined operational information about the current position and posture of actively deployed U.S. military forces that, had it been “read by an adversary of the United States, could conceivably have been used to harm American military and intelligence personnel.”<sup>2</sup> The members of the chat also discussed extremely sensitive operational and timing details surrounding plans for the mission, such as information about targets, weapons the U.S. would be deploying, and attack sequencing. Upon completion of the operation, users in the chat congratulated each other on the success of the mission with emojis, all while Mr. Goldberg watched in astonishment of the information to which he was privy.<sup>3</sup>

The potential national security implications of conversations regarding active military operations on an open-source messaging service are so extreme that Mr. Goldberg reasonably harbored concerns that the chat was an attempt to convey disinformation or an elaborate prank. Information shared in this careless manner is prone to leaks to adversaries, can reveal the locations of key military assets and servicemembers, and can place the lives of our servicemembers in danger, among other grave consequences. Nonetheless, spokespeople for the National Security Council and Vice President have confirmed the validity of the chat and Mr. Goldberg's unintentional inclusion.<sup>4</sup>

Not only did the use of Signal pose a risk to the lives of men and women of the military, jeopardize the operation, and embarrassingly advertise to our adversaries the careless attitude of our nation's senior leaders, but the inclusion of Mr. Goldberg raises questions as to whether Mr. Waltz, Mr. Hegseth, and the other members of the chat acted in accordance with the law, including the Espionage Act—a law strictly designed to limit the dissemination of sensitive and classified information to our adversaries.<sup>5</sup> This extraordinary breach of trust also raises questions as to whether Mr. Waltz and the other senior officials have failed to comply with federal

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans*, *The Atlantic* (Mar. 24, 2025) (online at [www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/)).

<sup>5</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 793. The nature of the information communicated over this unclassified channel also calls into question whether this would qualify as an attempt to “knowingly remove[] such documents or materials without authority and with the intent to retain such documents or materials at an unauthorized location,” in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1924.

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recordkeeping requirements, given the fact that “Waltz set some of the messages in the Signal group to disappear after one week, and some after four.”<sup>6</sup>

Accordingly, we request a briefing from each of you regarding the damage or intelligence risks caused by the use of Signal for the operation and the leak of highly sensitive or classified information, the factual timeline of events, the methods and protocol for handling critical national security information, as well as recordkeeping protocol no later than March 28, 2025.

Moreover, this letter serves as a formal request to preserve all existing and future records, materials, communications (including Signal and text messages), and documents related to the March 15, 2025, operation in Yemen, discussion of the operation among senior officials on Signal, the disclosure of operational details to Jeffrey Goldberg, and any response considered by the Administration following the publication of *The Atlantic* article titled “The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans” on March 24, 2025.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

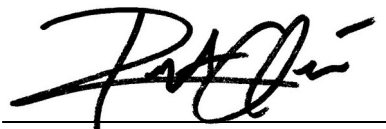
Sincerely,



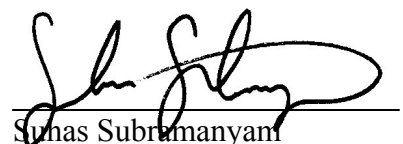
Gerald E. Connolly  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on  
Oversight and Government  
Reform



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



Sumas Subramanyam  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Military  
and Foreign Affairs

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<sup>6</sup> *The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans*, The Atlantic (Mar. 24, 2025) (online at [www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/)). See 44 U.S.C. §§ 3101-3107 (Chapter 31, Records Management by Federal Agencies); 44 U.S.C. §§ 3301-3314 (Chapter 33, Disposal of Records); and 36 C.F.R., Chapter XII, Subchapter B (Records Management).



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cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman