

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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April 1, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Waltz:

According to reporting by the *Washington Post*, you and your senior aides have used the free, publicly available Gmail application to conduct official government business during your brief tenure as National Security Advisor. There are numerous reports that you and other members and staff of the National Security Council (NSC) used Gmail to conduct official business, and the messaging app Signal for additional national security-related conversations beyond what was widely reported on regarding the March 15, 2025, Yemen strike.¹ If true, you and your colleagues would have exhibited an astounding pattern of recklessness that places both our national security and the American people at risk and likely violates a number of federal laws. I request that you, members of the NSC, and your staff immediately cease further use of unauthorized messaging and email applications and platforms for government business and immediately comply with all relevant federal records and national security laws to reassure the American public that the Administration is not using unofficial and insecure communications platforms to cover up wrongdoing or illegal behavior, obscure government business and records, and expose classified information.

On April 1, 2025, *The Washington Post* revealed that you and several other NSC members used personal Gmail accounts, which are not encrypted, to conduct government business, rather than complying with federal records and national security laws, which require the use of secure government-issued accounts. According to the report, “A senior Waltz aide used the commercial email service for highly technical conversations with colleagues at other government agencies involving sensitive military positions and powerful weapons systems relating to an ongoing conflict.”² *The Wall Street Journal* also reported that you have “created

¹ *Waltz and Staff Used Gmail for Government Communications, Officials Say*, Washington Post (Apr. 1, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/01/waltz-national-security-council-signal-gmail/); *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/).

² *Waltz and Staff Used Gmail for Government Communications, Officials Say*, Washington Post (Apr. 1, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/04/01/waltz-national-security-council-signal-gmail/).

and hosted multiple other sensitive national-security conversations on Signal with cabinet members, including separate threads on how to broker peace between Russia and Ukraine as well as military operations.”³ It is unclear whether in these other Signal chats, the “disappearing messages” function was utilized as it was in the “Houthi PC small group” chat used to discuss the March 15, 2025, military strike on Yemen.⁴

Federal law prohibits the arbitrary destruction of federal records as well as the use by executive branch employees of non-official electronic messaging accounts to conduct business unless an official account is copied or a complete copy of the electronic messages is forwarded to an official account within 20 days, including agency staff and staff of the President or Executive Office of the President.⁵ If a “covered employee,” including you and the other members and staff of the NSC, uses a non-official messaging account, without properly copying an official account or forwarding messages to an official account within 20 days in an intentional violation of the Presidential Records Act (PRA), then it shall be the basis of disciplinary action against that employee.⁶ Moreover, the Federal Records Act (FRA) imposes preservation and disposition requirements for federal agencies, including correspondence to and from agencies. Congress enacted the FRA to ensure that all official business of the federal government, including classified information, is properly preserved and accessible to the public. If Signal messages were not preserved in violation of the FRA, you are required to report the violation to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).⁷

The risk to national security increases every day that you and members of the Trump Administration circumvent well-established national security protocols for communicating sensitive deliberations. Consumer messaging platforms like Gmail plainly do not meet the operational standards required to communicate sensitive, national security information. Additionally, as the recent use of Signal by you and other senior Trump Administration officials has highlighted, using unclassified systems, even if they are encrypted, can lead to accidentally disclosing highly sensitive or classified information to unauthorized parties, such as journalists or foreign adversaries. Your unlawful use of non-secure communication platforms must stop immediately.

To address my concerns regarding the potential violation of federal law, I request you respond to the following questions and request for information requests by April 15, 2025:

1. Provide all communications referring or relating to government business that you or staff of the NSC sent or received on unauthorized messaging and email applications and platforms including, but not limited to, Signal and Gmail, since January 20, 2025.

³ *Mike Waltz Is Losing Support Inside the White House*, Wall Street Journal (Mar. 30, 2025) (online at www.wsj.com/politics/policy/mike-waltz-is-losing-support-inside-the-white-house-2b17459c).

⁴ *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/).

⁵ 44 U.S.C. § 3105; 44 U.S.C. § 2911; 44 U.S.C. § 2209.

⁶ 44 U.S.C. § 2209.

⁷ 44 U.S.C. § 3106.

2. Provide written confirmation that you and staff of the NSC will cease and desist from further use of unauthorized messaging and email applications and platforms including, but not limited to, Signal and Gmail, for government business.
3. Have you, or any other members or staff of the NSC, in any of your official capacities in the Trump Administration, used Gmail or any other private or unofficial messaging application or platform on your personal phone to conduct official government business?
4. Identify all the instances in which you, or any other members or staff of the NSC, in any of your official capacities in the Trump Administration, have used Gmail or any other private or unofficial messaging application or platform for official government business.
5. During the time in which you have used Signal for official government business, have the messages been set to be deleted within a certain timeframe?
 - a. If you, or any other members or staff of the NSC, failed to copy and forward your Gmail messages to an official account within 20 days, did you report the violation to NARA in accordance with the PRA? Provide an explanation for the instances when you did not notify NARA of the violation.
6. Have you or staff of the NSC used personal phones to conduct official government business? If so, were you or staff of the NSC using personal or government-issued phone to participate in any communications involving highly sensitive national security information, including, but not limited to, the “Houthi PC small group” chat?
7. Identify all the instances in which you or NSC staff, in your official capacity in the Trump Administration, have used Signal or any other private or unofficial messaging application or platform for official government business, including, but not limited to, discussions of the March 15, 2025, military operation in Yemen in the Signal group chat titled “Houthi PC small group.”

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

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman