

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
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July 6, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to urge you to convene a hearing about the need for stronger ethics regulations, and to request that you invite Director Walter M. Shaub, Jr. of the Office of Government Ethics to testify.

Today, Director Shaub announced his resignation from his position, to be effective July 19, 2017.<sup>1</sup> In an interview about his resignation, Director Shaub stated that “the current legal situation has made it clear that the ethics program needs to be stronger than it is.”<sup>2</sup>

Over his tenure of more than four years, Director Shaub has provided strong and independent leadership on ethics regulations and how they have applied to executive branch officials in the Obama and Trump Administrations. The American people deserve to hear from this experienced ethics expert about the challenges he faced in his position and the reforms he believes would strengthen our program of government ethics. Strengthening and improving our ethics laws and government ethics program should be an issue with wide bipartisan support.

You have stated in recent days that “the Office of Government Ethics is squarely within our lanes.”<sup>3</sup> I agree—and believe that a public hearing to hear from Director Shaub would be productive and would fall squarely within our Committee’s mission.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Walter M. Shaub, Jr., Director, Office of Government Ethics, to President Donald J. Trump (July 6, 2017) (online at [https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DEESvWSXUAM\\_E05.jpg:large](https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DEESvWSXUAM_E05.jpg:large)).

<sup>2</sup> *Ethics Office Director Walter Shaub Resigns, Saying Rules Need To Be Tougher*, NPR (July 6, 2017) (online at [www.npr.org/2017/07/06/535781749/ethics-office-director-walter-shaub-resigns-saying-rules-need-to-be-tougher](http://www.npr.org/2017/07/06/535781749/ethics-office-director-walter-shaub-resigns-saying-rules-need-to-be-tougher)).

<sup>3</sup> *Gowdy: Oversight Panel Won't Pursue Russia, Obstruction Probes*, Politico (June 23, 2017) (online at [www.politico.com/story/2017/06/23/house-oversight-no-russia-investigation-trey-gowdy-239904](http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/23/house-oversight-no-russia-investigation-trey-gowdy-239904)).

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elijah E. Cummings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E" and a flourish at the end.

Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member