

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 26, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Comer:

We write regarding the deeply alarming report in *The Atlantic* that several members of the National Security Council and the White House Cabinet participated in a group chat on the Signal messaging application regarding a military operation in Yemen, which included a person unauthorized to receive such highly sensitive or classified information.<sup>1</sup> We are attaching hereto a letter addressed to the National Security Adviser, Director of National Intelligence, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Secretaries of the Treasury, Defense, and State, and the Vice President demanding an immediate briefing on this matter. We urge you to join us in demanding such a briefing and to schedule a hearing *immediately* with Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and National Security Adviser Mike Waltz to allow the Committee to assess the extent of the harm to American national security interests as a result of this shocking and reckless unauthorized disclosure of highly sensitive and potentially classified information.

Many of your Republican colleagues have previously expressed emphatic concern about protecting sensitive and classified national security information and have demanded information from the executive branch in connection with alleged failures to do so. In January 2023, then Senator and current Secretary of State Marco Rubio—who participated in the Signal chat disclosing information about potential U.S. military action—commented: “Any time documents have been removed from their proper setting—it’s a problem, I don’t care who did it.”<sup>2</sup> In 2016, Secretary of Defense Hegseth—also a participant in the Signal chat—stated on *Fox News* with respect to the use of a private email server for official State Department communications: “[T]he assumption is in the intelligence community, if you are using unclassified means, there is likelihood [*sic*] that foreign governments are targeting those accounts.”<sup>3</sup> And just two weeks ago, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard—an additional participant in the Signal chat—announced a crackdown on leaks within the intelligence community, stating: “Any

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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/)).

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

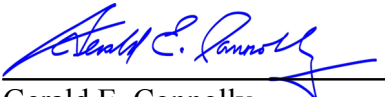
<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

unauthorized release of classified information is a violation of the law and will be treated as such.”<sup>4</sup>

A former national security official who has worked in both Republican and Democratic administrations has observed with respect to the Signal breach that “[c]ommunicating sensitive, operational information in this manner increases the likelihood of inappropriate disclosure which places military personnel at risk,” and raises questions about violation of federal law governing the safeguarding and retention of government information.<sup>5</sup> Given the grave threat to American national security from these unsecured communications, as well as your repeatedly stated concern for the protection of classified information, we trust that you will enthusiastically join us in demanding immediate answers from the Trump Administration and will publicly announce your intention to hold a hearing in the near future to evaluate the harm resulting from the Signal chat.

If your staff have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Democratic Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



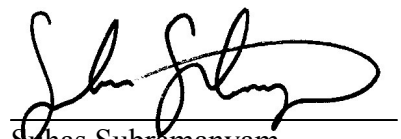
Gerald E. Connolly  
Ranking Member



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Military  
and Foreign Affairs

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<sup>4</sup> Office of the Director of National Intelligence, *Press Release, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard Announces Investigation Into IC Chats, Leaks, Launches Whistleblower Hotline*, (Mar. 14, 2025) (online at <https://www.odni.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/press-releases-2025/4053-pr-02-25>).

<sup>5</sup> *What Top Trump Officials Have Said About Mishandling Classified Information*, ABC News (Mar. 24, 2025) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/top-trump-officials-mishandling-classified-information/story?id=120112980>).



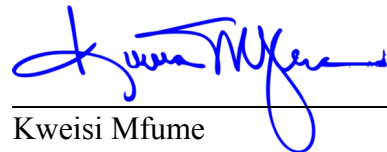
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



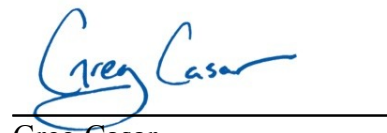
Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



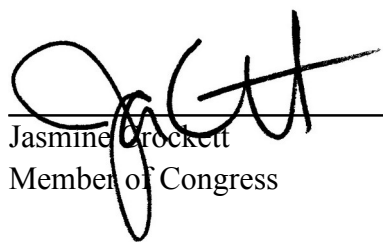
Melanie A. Stansbury  
Member of Congress



Maxwell A. Frost  
Member of Congress



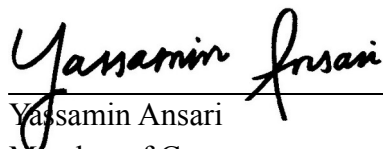
Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



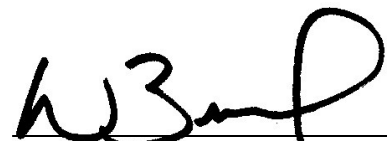
Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



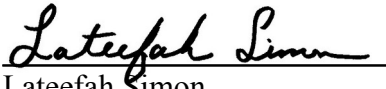
Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



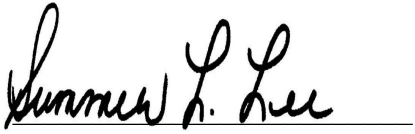
Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lateefah Simon", written over a horizontal line.

Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dave Min", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Min  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Summer L. Lee", written over a horizontal line.

Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress