

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
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<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 25, 2025

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

The Honorable Susan Wiles
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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

The Honorable Stephen Miller
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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

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

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

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

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
Director
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tysons McLean Drive
McLean, VA 22102

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

Please be advised that the United States Congress intends to investigate an incident made public on March 24, 2025, where it is alleged that you and several senior government officials

disclosed highly sensitive, classified material over an unauthorized instant messaging network, compromising the national security of the United States.¹

In a catastrophic and confounding security breach, journalist Jeffrey Goldberg was mistakenly included in a Signal group chat where the Trump Administration's senior national security leaders discussed classified plans for a military strike on Houthi targets in Yemen. The group allegedly includes Vice President Vance, Secretary Rubio, Secretary Hegseth, Secretary Bessent, National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, National Counterterrorism Center Director Joe Kent, White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, and White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller. During a March 25, 2025, hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee, John Ratcliffe, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Tulsi Gabbard, director of National Intelligence, verbally confirmed the existence of the Signal group chat and their participation. Director Gabbard also confirmed that she no longer had access to the messages in question, presumably due to the "disappearing messages" setting.

This incident raises grave concerns about the misuse of unsecured communication platforms for classified discussions and the potential that American military and intelligence professionals may have been compromised by the reckless dissemination of such classified material.

Accordingly, this letter serves as a formal request that you, your agents, employees, agencies, and representatives preserve and not alter, delete, destroy, or otherwise dispose of any and all documents, communications, materials, and electronically stored information (ESI) that may be relevant to this matter.

This preservation obligation extends to all documents, communications, and ESI in your possession, custody, or control, including but not limited to:

- Emails and attachments;
- Text messages and instant messages (e.g., SMS, iMessage, WhatsApp, Teams, Slack, Signal);
- Electronic documents (e.g., Word, Excel, PDFs);
- Hard-copy documents and handwritten notes;
- Internal reports, memoranda, and meeting minutes;
- Audio or video recordings;
- Social media content and metadata;
- Voicemail recordings;
- Server logs and system data; and
- Backups and archived data.

¹ *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/).

The duty to preserve records and materials is established by statute, including all federal and Presidential records, as well as documents, communications, materials, and ESI designed to furnish the information necessary to protect the legal and financial rights of the U.S. Government and persons directly affected by the agency's activities.² Failure to preserve relevant records may result in penalties including fines, imprisonment, or disqualification from holding any office in the United States.

This notice applies to all data regardless of where it is stored or by whom it is held, including personal devices and third-party platforms (e.g., cloud storage, third-party communication tools). We demand that you immediately suspend any automatic or routine document destruction policies, including email deletion protocols, shredding schedules, data overwriting processes, or automatic message deletion that may result in the loss of potentially relevant information.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and confirm in writing within ten (10) business days that you have taken steps to comply with this hold.

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



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

² See 44 U.S.C. §§ 2201, *et seq.*; 44 U.S.C. §§ 3101, *et seq.*