

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0301**

October\_\_\_\_, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Nebraska Avenue Center  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Mr. Joseph P. Clancy  
Director  
United States Secret Service  
245 Murray Ln  
Washington, DC 20223

Dear Secretary Johnson and Director Clancy:

We write to request that corrective action be taken against: 1) the Secret Service employees who broke the law by improperly accessing the private information of House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz and 2) those employees who threatened to release as well as those that did release this sensitive information. This kind of unacceptable behavior, and violations of any U.S. citizen's privacy in this manner, cannot be tolerated. We urge your respective agencies to respond to these atrocious incidents firmly and swiftly.

An investigation into this matter by John Roth, Inspector General (IG) for the Department of Homeland Security, revealed that more than 40 employees at the Secret Service improperly accessed information in Chairman Chaffetz's file. While the investigation was unable to conclude how many of these employees disclosed sensitive information to others, IG Roth "did conclude that the disclosure was widespread." He also found that "each employee who accessed the Chairman's application and disclosed it to another without an official purpose in doing so violated the Privacy Act, Secret Service policy, and DHS policy." The IG investigation also "identified 18 supervisors — including the Acting Chief of Staff and the Deputy Director — who knew or should have known that Chairman Chaffetz's personal information was being accessed. Yet, with a single exception, there was no evidence that any of the managers attempted to inform up the chain or to stop or remediate the activity."

IG Roth concluded his investigation by stating, "This episode reflects extremely poor judgment and a lack of care on the part of a number of Secret Service employees. Given the sensitivity of the information with which these agents are entrusted, particularly with regard to their protective function, this episode is deeply disturbing. Secret Service leadership must ensure that behavior like this will not be tolerated."


The Washington Post reported that the day after a contentious July hearing that Rep. Chaffetz's information "was spread to nearly every layer of the service" and that "staff members in the most senior headquarters offices, the president's protective detail, the public affairs office, the office of investigations, and field offices in Sacramento, Charlotte, Dallas and elsewhere accessed

day after the March 24 hearing, one agent who had been sent to New York for the visit of the president of Afghanistan recalled that nearly all of the 70 agents at a briefing were discussing it.” The IG investigation also revealed that Secret Service assistant director Edward Lowery sent an e-mail in which he said of Chaffetz, “some information that he might find embarrassing needs to get out. Just to be fair.”

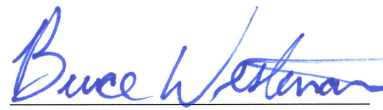
It is true that the Secret Service does an enormous amount of good in providing protection for the President and Vice President, former U.S. Presidents, and foreign dignitaries, and in fighting crime throughout the world. These agents should be recognized and praised when their work is carried out with excellence. But the good that they do should not shield them from criticism and corrective action when federal employees break the law and engage in scandalous conduct. A simple apology from an agency head does not undo the damage done by these violations of an individual’s privacy, nor does it punish those responsible for these detestable acts.

Employment at a federal agency is a high honor and carries great responsibility. There are certain ethical standards and laws that all employees are required to follow, and protecting the privileged information of applicants to positions in those agencies is certainly one of those standards. Employment within a federal agency should not be used for retaliatory actions against any American. Those responsible for this data breach should be held accountable. We call on you to take swift and corrective action.


Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.  
Member of Congress




Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



Rod Blum  
Member of Congress



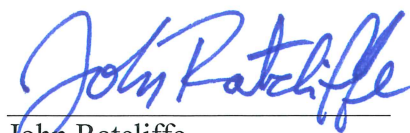
Ron DeSantis  
Member of Congress



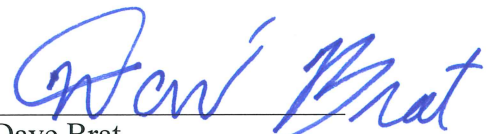
Mark Walker  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



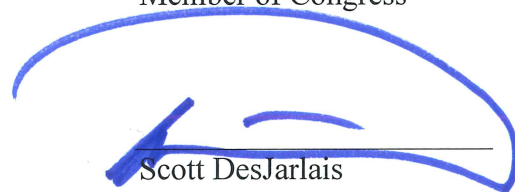
John Ratcliffe  
Member of Congress



Dave Brat  
Member of Congress



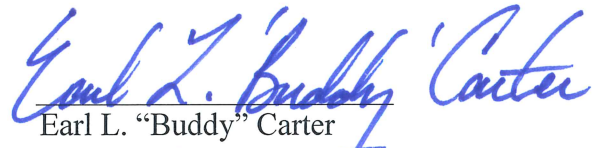
David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais  
Member of Congress



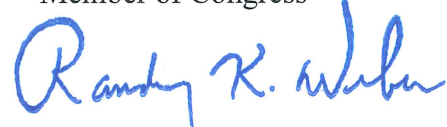
Ken Buck  
Member of Congress



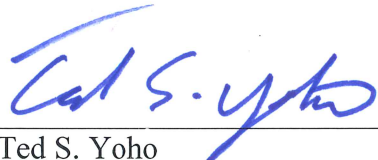
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress



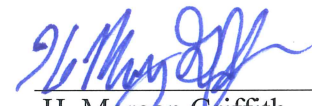
Ted S. Yoho  
Member of Congress



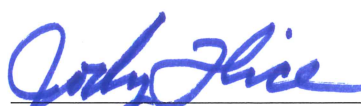
Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress



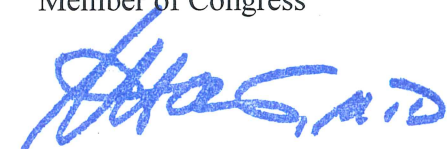
Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress



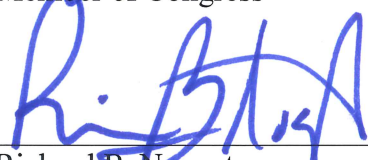
H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



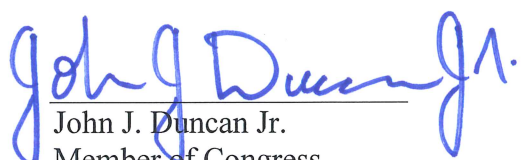
Jody B. Hice  
Member of Congress



Andy Harris  
Member of Congress



Richard B. Nugent  
Member of Congress

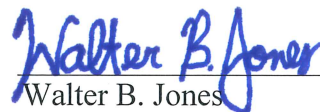


John J. Duncan Jr.  
Member of Congress

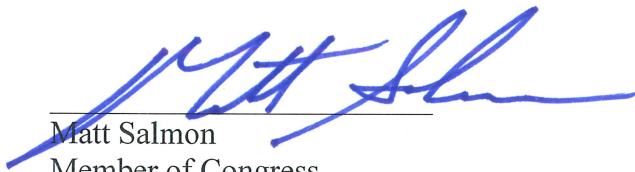




Ralph Lee Abraham  
Member of Congress



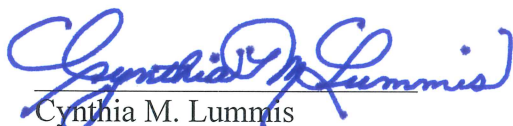
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



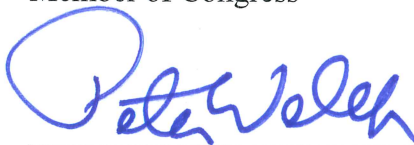
Lamar Smith  
Member of Congress



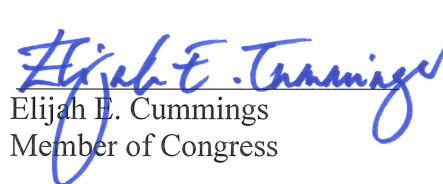
Cynthia M. Lummis  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress