

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 7, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley,

Senator Feinstein has previously asked for public hearings as part of the Senate Judiciary Committee's ongoing investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, potential Trump campaign collusion, and any related obstruction of justice. We support her requests. Previously, you have also expressed your intent to hold public hearings related to potential collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign. Now that you have decided to end private interviews of the participants in the June 9, 2016 meeting in Trump Tower between the campaign and a Russian delegation, the time for these public hearings has come.

We commend the promise you made at the last executive business meeting to begin publicly releasing transcripts of the interviews that have been conducted thus far by Committee staff. However, simply releasing these transcripts is not enough. Committee members have long been led to believe that they would have the chance to question witnesses directly – to follow up on the many questions raised by the staff interviews and to ensure that witnesses testify publicly and under oath. Any effort to end the Committee's inquiry before Committee members have been able to ask a single question – and before a single witness has been questioned in public or under oath – would be a disservice to the Judiciary Committee's long history of serving as a forum to ferret out the truth and inform the American people.

These public hearings must involve the testimony of Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner, along with a renewed bipartisan effort to obtain the documents that have been requested but not yet produced. While Donald Trump Jr. appeared voluntarily for a staff-level interview, he refused – before and after that interview -- to produce drafts of his July 2017 statements about the June 9 meeting and communications about those drafts. He also failed to produce his direct communications with Wikileaks until after the interview, also depriving the Committee of the opportunity to question him about those materials.

It is also our understanding that Mr. Kushner has produced some, but not all, of the documents requested of him and – notably – that he has refused to provide any documents related to the sections of his security clearance forms that would reveal foreign travel and contacts. Mr. Kushner has also declined to schedule even a staff-level interview with the

Committee. Mr. Kushner was a key participant in the June 9 meeting, and his testimony is essential to achieve a full understanding of that meeting and of many other episodes central to our investigation. You have repeatedly pledged to require Mr. Kushner to submit to questions by the Committee. Now that you have discontinued private staff interviews with participants in the June 9 meeting – interviews that were also never intended as a complete substitute for Member-level questioning – the only way to follow through on your commitment is to demand Mr. Kushner participate in a public hearing.

Mr. Kushner's recent decision to refuse a private interview with our Committee does not diminish the need to compel his public testimony and that of other crucial witnesses. If anything, it makes his public testimony all the more essential. The fact that Mr. Kushner spoke to other Congressional committees also does not free him from his obligation to testify before us. Those committees have different areas of jurisdiction and focus; their efforts in no way eliminate our right and responsibility to do our job.

We respectfully request that the Senate Judiciary Committee immediately schedule public hearings with Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner and the other key witnesses in our ongoing investigation and, as needed, issue subpoenas to compel their appearances to ensure that these individuals fully account for their actions in public and under oath. This is an essential step toward getting us the answers that we need to fulfill our important oversight responsibilities. We thank you again for your attention to this issue and your career-long commitment to oversight and transparency, and we look forward to working with you to complete the Committee's investigation.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



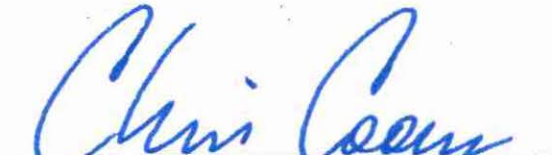
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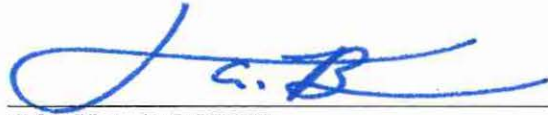
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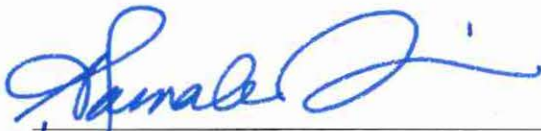
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