

August XX, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grassley and Chairman Goodlatte,

One of the most important duties of the United States Congress is to conduct ongoing, thorough oversight of the departments, agencies and personnel of the federal government. Those who are nominated to serve in the highest offices of public trust must not only be confirmed by the Senate, but are expected to make regular appearances before their committees of jurisdiction in both chambers to answer questions, justify their budget requests and speak to the American people about their vision and goals.

Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III and his team of lawyers, who have sweeping authority and an open-ended mission, have afforded Congress and the public no such opportunity. Every nominee for United States Attorney must be confirmed by the Senate to serve in that role, a process that brings to the forefront any conflicts of interest, potential biases or questionable past conduct. However, the team led by Mr. Mueller, who is arguably just as empowered— if not more so – than any United States Attorney, is allowed to operate largely in secret, selected by and ultimately accountable to only one person: Mr. Mueller himself. Yet, in truth, the Special Counsel and his team are federal employees who work for the American people and receive a paycheck funded by their taxes.

This investigation has the potential to drag on for months or even years, incurring millions of dollars of expenses. Furthermore, it has already raised serious questions, as reports have shed light on Mr. Mueller's longtime association with former FBI Director, James Comey, and sizeable campaign donations to Democratic politicians and causes by several members of the Special Counsel team. Specifically, this team is comprised of attorneys who gave generously to Democratic presidential candidates Clinton, Obama, Kerry, and Gore; a former law clerk for liberal and outspoken trump-critic Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg; former legal representation for Mrs. Clinton in a lawsuit regarding her private emails; and former representation for an aide who helped manage Mrs. Clinton's private email server. **Could Mr. Mueller not have assembled a team of skilled and qualified attorneys without such a proven commitment to electing Democratic politicians?**

Prosecutors in America, whether they are federal, state or local are afforded great authority in our society. But with that authority comes great responsibility and an obligation to be accountable to the public. A district attorney for even a small, rural county must earn the trust and vote of his or her fellow citizens. Further, a United States Attorney must complete a rigorous confirmation process and be confirmed by a vote of the Senate. This Special Counsel investigating our own president has no such accountability and transparency.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that one or both of the Judiciary Committees immediately convene a public and open hearing or series of hearings to bring Mr. Mueller and his team out of the shadows and into the public square. While we agree that specific questions about the ongoing investigation cannot and should not be addressed in such a hearing, we also strongly believe the American people deserve knowledge and accountability regarding the potential expenses incurred by Mr. Mueller, the scope of his investigation and the selection of his Special Counsel team. **They are, after all, paying his bill. And, more importantly, they elected this President.**

This Special Counsel has a responsibility to fulfill the duties of this investigation in a judicious and non-partisan manner with no other purpose than the well-being of our country. The American public deserves no less from those in whom they have placed their trust.

We are confident that you will take this request into serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Babin
Member of Congress