

Patrice McDermott

From: Patrice McDermott <pmcdermott@govinfowatch.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2017 5:08 PM
To: Patrice McDermott
Subject: Fwd: Sign on: Letter of support for House Intel Comm. Member personal offices having their own staffer w/ high clearance

On Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 3:02:34 PM UTC-4, daniel wrote:
Hi everyone,

Several members of congress--including members of the House Intelligence Committee--are trying to strengthen congressional oversight of national security. They are requesting the House make available additional funds so that staff who serve in the personal offices of Intelligence Committee members can have sufficiently high clearance to assist their bosses with intelligence oversight.

Currently the chair and ranking member pick all the House Intel Committee staff, who report to them and not to individual members. By contrast, each member of the Senate Intelligence Committee has staff with high clearance that are responsive to them.

Please [sign on here by COB Thursday, March 17](#), to express your support for empowering the House to engage in national security oversight.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13ATVD9GVc1Zh3gRKtUVydMnpHxwntQOP8kAvq2oqtCs/viewform>

Our letter is below as is the Dear Colleague from Rep. Speier that explains the issue and asks other members for their support.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Daniel

Daniel Schuman
Demand Progress | Policy Director
202-577-6100

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ORGANIZATIONAL LETTER

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz,

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of a request from several members of Congress to appropriate an additional \$125,000 for the Sergeant at Arms to conduct Compartmented Information Security

(TS/SCI) Clearance investigations. These funds would address the costs of providing clearance to designated staff who serve in the personal offices of Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) to more fully assist each representative in the thorough execution of their oversight duties.

This appropriation would help provide a measure of parity for HPSCI members with their Senate counterparts with respect to the conduct of national security oversight. Each member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has funds available to hire and clear a staffer to assist with their classified oversight duties. Access to the highest levels of classification is viewed by the Senate as necessary for staff to assist member inquiries into the matters under the committee's jurisdiction. Such staff provide confidential counsel to each member and a second set of hands and eyes that are less constrained by the competing demands on each member's time. Members who serve on HPSCI would benefit from a similar arrangement.

In addition, the nature of intelligence oversight suggests that providing additional resources to members of HPSCI would not be inapt. While members of other committees benefit from the assistance and spotlight brought by public stakeholders, legislative support agencies, academics, and others, the work of HPSCI is sufficiently cloistered as to comparatively diminish the input of non-congressionals. Providing a higher level of clearance to personal office staffers who serve members of HPSCI would help ameliorate this deficiency and support improved functioning of a vital congressional committee.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further. Please contact XXXXXXXXX

Sincerely,

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Rep. SPEIER LETTER

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Tom Graves

Chairman

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

House Appropriations Committee

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

House Appropriations Committee

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

As you begin work on the FY 2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, we request you include adequate funding to the House Office of the Sergeant at Arms to support Top Secret Sensitive Compartmented Information Security (TS/SCI) Clearance investigations for individual designees from each House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Member's personal staff.

The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is charged with oversight of the United States Intelligence Community, including some of the most time-sensitive and complicated information crucial to our nation's national security, however, there has not been funding appropriated to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms to support TS/SCI Clearance investigations necessary for personal staff offices to have a designee available to support their Member for hearings and markups. This places an onerous burden on individual Members, as they are unable to have the assistance of staff at the most crucial times, and is a major oversight considering their counterparts on the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence are afforded SCI Clearance investigations for personal office designees. That system has worked effectively on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for decades without any negative effect on the confidentiality of intelligence information, and the House Permanent Select Committee should place its members on an equal footing.

We wish to request an increase in funding for the House Office of the Sergeant at Arms of \$125,000 in order to support [the required cost of the additional staff investigations](#). This request will support Members as they review complicated and urgent obstacles our intelligence community must grapple with.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Jackie Speier

Member of Congress