



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2019

Mr. Paul D. Irving  
Sergeant at Arms  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room H-124 US Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Irving:

I am writing with respect to an urgent security matter.

Today, a group of Minority Members of the House of Representatives, including Minority Members of the Committee of Homeland Security, intentionally brought their electronic devices into a SCIF (Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility). Such action is a blatant breach of security, violates the Oath all Members of Congress sign to gain access to classified information, and contravenes security controls established by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency for the protection of classified information.

This unprecedented breach of security raises serious concerns for Committee Chairmen, including me, responsible for maintaining SCIFs. As such, I am requesting you take action with respect to the Members involved in the breach. More broadly, I urge you to take House-wide action to remind all Members about the dangers of such reckless action and the potential national security risks of such behavior.

Thank you for your timely attention to this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson".

Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Mike Rogers, Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security