



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

October 1, 2015

Mr. Joseph P. Clancy
Director
United States Secret Service
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Director Clancy,

In spite of the recent successful protective missions relating to the U.N. General Assembly and Papal visit, the Secret Service has recently become embroiled in another scandal. As you know, the DHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a report yesterday outlining its findings from an investigation into the improper access of personally identifiable information (PII) pertaining to Congressman Jason Chaffetz. OIG found that Congressman Chaffetz' PII was accessed on approximately 60 occasions by 45 Secret Service employees. The vast majority of these individuals were in violation of the Privacy Act and DHS and United States Secret Service (USSS) policy. According to OIG, only four of the individuals who accessed Congressman Chaffetz' PII had an arguably legitimate need to do so. Furthermore, the information in the record, namely that Congressman Chaffetz had applied for a position with the Secret Service and was not selected, was disclosed and discussed freely by USSS personnel. OIG estimates that the number of individuals who found out about the information about this respected Member of Congress is in the hundreds. It should be noted that each disclosure is technically a subsequent violation of the Privacy Act.

I am concerned that you were unaware of the improper access until learning of it on April 2, more than a week later. This again raises concerns about how information moved up the chain of command in the Secret Service. OIG identified two specific opportunities where senior officials could have informed you of the situation but failed to do so. In addition, there were 18 supervisors at the GS-15 or Senior Executive Service level, who appeared to have known, or in the estimation of the Inspector General, should have known that Congressman Chaffetz' record was being improperly accessed and discussed. However, OIG found that with a single exception, none of the supervisors attempted to report the incident up the chain of command or stop and/or remediate the situation.

OIG concluded its investigation by stating the incident "reflects an obvious lack of care on the part of the Secret Service personnel as to the sensitivity of the information entrusted to them." As a former prosecutor in the Department of Justice's Public Integrity Section, I firmly believe that public service is a public trust and the men and women of the Secret Service must be held to the highest ethical standards. What happened here appears to be an abuse of that trust. USSS

personnel who accessed or discussed Congressman Chaffetz' record should have known what they were doing was wrong. USSS senior leadership must do more to ensure the workforce adheres to the highest standards of ethics and integrity. Pursuant to Rule X(3)(g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, please provide the requested information to the Committee no later than October 8, 2015.

1. What administrative or disciplinary action has been taken against those individuals who violated the Privacy Act by accessing and disclosing Congressman Chaffetz' record without a legitimate "need to know?" If none, what action will be taken?
2. What steps will the Secret Service take to eliminate or mitigate the risk to its systems, particularly those containing PII or other sensitive information, from being improperly accessed by personnel without a need to know?
3. What procedures, if any, have been instituted to ensure that information regarding possible misconduct or other ethical lapses are being reported through the chain of command in a timely manner?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should your staff have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ryan Consaul, of the Committee Staff, at 202-226-8417.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Chairman

CC: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader
The Honorable Jason Chaffetz, Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security