

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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March 20, 2026

The Honorable Parisa Dehghani-Tafti
Commonwealth's Attorney
Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for
Arlington County and the City of Falls Church
1425 N Courthouse Rd, Suite 5200
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Dehghani-Tafti:

The Committee is in receipt of your letter dated January 27, 2026, refusing to cooperate with oversight requests related to concerns about your politically-motivated actions in a case involving a far-left agitator's disturbing campaign to threaten, harass, and dox a senior White House official and his family.¹ You continue to object to the Committee's requests on the grounds that disclosing the requested material would interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation and that the Committee, in your view, does not have a sufficient federal interest in obtaining the requested material. Neither argument is persuasive and the Committee does not accept your stated reasons for withholding information. Accordingly, because of your continued noncompliance, compulsory process is necessary.

First, you assert that "the pendency of a criminal investigation" prevents you from complying with the Committee's request.² The existence of an ongoing criminal investigation, however, is not a legitimate basis for refusing to comply with the Committee's requests.³ As the Supreme Court of the United States has made clear, "a congressional committee . . . engaged in a legitimate legislative investigation need not grind to a halt" in the face of an ongoing criminal

¹ See Letter from Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commw.'s Att'y for Arlington Cnty. & the City of Falls Church, to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary (Jan. 27, 2026) [hereinafter "Jan. 27 Letter"] (on file with Committee); see also Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commw.'s Att'y for Arlington Cnty. & the City of Falls Church (Jan. 13, 2026) [hereinafter "Jan. 13 Letter"] (on file with Committee).

² Jan. 27 Letter, *supra* note 1.

³ See William McGurn, Opinion, *The 'Ongoing Investigation' Dodge on Hunter Biden*, WALL ST. J. (July 10, 2023) (quoting former Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew McCarthy as stating, "The executive branch response of 'ongoing investigation' is really a political objection, rather than a legal one. There is no 'ongoing investigation' privilege."); Christopher R. Smith, *I Fought the Law and the Law Lost: The Case for Congressional Oversight Over Systemic DOJ Discovery Abuse in Criminal Cases*, 9 CARDOZO PUB. L. POL'Y & ETHICS J. 85, 107 (2010) ("To preclude Congress from investigating prosecutorial misconduct because of open investigations would completely undermine Congress's constitutional duty to investigate government misconduct[.]").

investigation.⁴ In fact, there are numerous examples of prosecutors complying with congressional requests for information related to ongoing criminal investigations.⁵ The Committee specifically cited to “multiple investigations in which Congress set out with the explicit purpose of examining criminal conduct, including at the same time as prosecutors,” in its previous letter.⁶ The Committee has also noted a similar case in which a federal judge rejected a local prosecutor’s refusal to comply with its request for information on the grounds that doing so would jeopardize an ongoing investigation.⁷ As in that case, there is no reason to believe that your full compliance with the Committee’s requests would interfere with an ongoing investigation, and you have provided no explanation or evidence to support such a conclusion.⁸ In sum, the claim that Congress cannot obtain information about an ongoing investigation “rests on no constitutional privilege or case law authority.”⁹

Second, you have argued that the Committee’s requests lack a valid federal interest because federal law, including 18 U.S.C. § 119, is sufficient to address threats to federal officials.¹⁰ This assertion, too, is unpersuasive. The Committee’s inquiry clearly has a legitimate legislative purpose as it is “a subject on which legislation could be had.”¹¹ While you may disagree about the need to reform federal law to better protect federal officials, you cannot seriously contend that the Committee does not have the authority to do so.¹²

In fact, contrary to your assertion, there are questions about the sufficiency of Section 119 to address the alleged criminal conduct at issue here. For instance, it is possible to argue that the subject of the investigation did not act with the specific intent covered by Section 119.¹³ To better ensure the safety of federal officials, Congress may consider amending Section 119 to also

⁴ *Hutcheson v. United States*, 369 U.S. 599, 618 (1962); *see also* *Sinclair v. United States*, 279 U.S. 263, 295 (1929) (holding that Congress’s authority “to require pertinent disclosures in aid of its own constitutional power is not abridged because the information sought to be elicited may also be of use” in a criminal prosecution).

⁵ *See* JENNER & BLOCK ET AL., *WHEN CONGRESS COMES CALLING: A STUDY ON THE PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES, AND PRAGMATICS OF LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY* 110-17 (2025) (listing numerous examples of Congress obtaining information related to an ongoing criminal investigation); *Obstruction of Justice: Does the Justice Department Have to Respond to Lawfully Issued and Valid Congressional Subpoenas*, *Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov’t Reform*, 112th Cong. (2011) (statement of Louis Fisher, Scholar in Residence, Const. Project) (“Congress has often obtained records related to ongoing criminal investigations.”).

⁶ Jan. 13 Letter, *supra* note 1 (quoting David Rapallo, *Congress’s Power to Investigate Crime*, 27 N.Y.U. J. LEGIS. & PUB. POL’Y 135, 139 (2024)).

⁷ *Id.* (discussing *Bragg v. Jordan*, 669 F. Supp. 3d 257 (S.D.N.Y. 2023)).

⁸ *See* JENNER & BLOCK ET AL., *supra* note 5, at 120 (“[C]ongressional oversight and access to documents and testimony, unlike the action of a court, cannot stop a prosecution or set limits on the management of a particular case. Access to information by itself would not seem to disturb the authority and discretion of the executive branch to decide whether to prosecute a case.”).

⁹ *Hearing on Obstruction of Justice*, *supra* note 5 (statement of Morton Rosenberg, Fellow, Const. Project).

¹⁰ Jan. 27 Letter, *supra* note 1.

¹¹ *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 863 (2020) (internal quotation marks omitted).

¹² *See* U.S. CONST. art. I, § 1; Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X(1)(5) (2025).

¹³ *See* Devlin Barrett, *The Battle in Virginia Over an Activist Who Protested Stephen Miller*, N.Y. TIMES (Nov. 3, 2025) (“[Wien’s lawyer] said that Ms. Wien and her fellow Arlington activists were only engaged in peaceful advocacy and not seeking to coerce, intimidate or harass Mr. Miller.”).

apply where a person acts with the intent to “harass” a federal official or their family.¹⁴ Alternatively, Congress may consider adding an intent requirement similar to the one found in 18 U.S.C. § 115, which applies when a person commits or threatens to commit certain violent crimes against a federal official “with intent to impede, intimidate, or interfere with such official . . . while engaged in the performance of official duties, or with intent to retaliate against such official . . . on account of the performance of official duties[.]”¹⁵ Congress may also consider increasing the penalty for violating Section 119 to act as a stronger deterrent against doxing federal officials. Indeed, Congress has previously contemplated such a change.¹⁶

In any event, amending Section 119 is only one of several legislative reforms that the Committee may consider in relation to the conduct at issue here and for which it needs the requested information.¹⁷ The Committee has previously articulated several potential reforms, including “authorizing additional funding for federal law enforcement agencies to address threats to the safety of senior federal officials” and “revising the laws governing security details for federal officials.”¹⁸ Notably, you have ignored these proposals.

The Supreme Court has recognized that Congress has a “broad and indispensable” power to conduct oversight, which “encompasses inquiries into the administration of existing laws, studies of proposed laws, and surveys in our social, economic or political system for the purpose of enabling Congress to remedy them.”¹⁹ Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to conduct oversight of criminal justice matters and judicial proceedings.²⁰

Accordingly, the Committee is initiating compulsory process to obtain the documents and material needed to fulfill its oversight and legislative obligations. Please find the enclosed subpoena compelling production of the requested documents by April 7, 2026.

¹⁴ See *id.* (stating Wien’s conduct may violate a Virginia state law that prohibits publishing certain types of personal information about another person “with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass” that person). A Virginia state law provides a similar standard, VA. CODE § 18.2-186.4, though that may not be sufficient to protect federal officials when rogue state and local prosecutors—such as you—refuse to enforce the law, or obstruct investigations into potential violations of the law, for partisan purposes. See *generally* Barrett, *supra* note 13.

¹⁵ 18 U.S.C. § 115.

¹⁶ See S. 2248, 117th Cong. (2021) (increasing the maximum prison sentence for violating 18 U.S.C. § 119 from five years to ten years); H.R. 2661, 111th Cong. (2009) (same).

¹⁷ See *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 862 (2020) (“Without information, Congress would be shooting in the dark, unable to legislate wisely or effectively.” (internal quotation marks omitted)).

¹⁸ Jan. 13 Letter, *supra* note 1.

¹⁹ *Mazars*, 591 U.S. at 862 (internal quotation marks omitted).

²⁰ Rules of the House of Representatives, 119th Cong., R. X (2025).

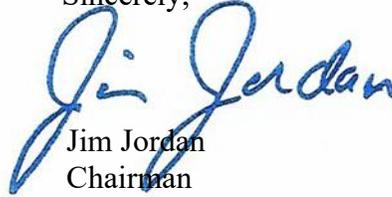
The Honorable Parisa Dehghani-Tafti

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "D".

Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

Enclosure