

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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February 12, 2020

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

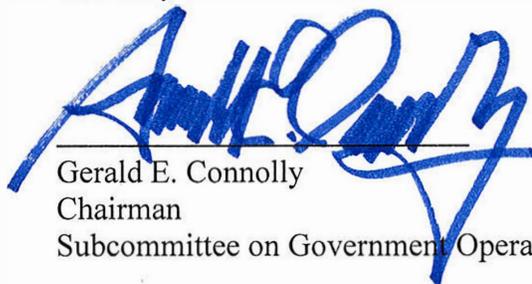
Dear Mr. Horowitz:

Enclosed are questions that have been directed to you and submitted for the official record for the hearing on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, titled "Protecting Those Who Blow the Whistle on Government Wrongdoing."

Please return your written responses to these questions by Wednesday, February 26, 2020, including each question in full as well as the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Amy Stratton, Deputy Clerk, at Amy.Stratton@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Elisa LaNier, Chief Clerk, at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

cc: The Honorable Mark Meadows, Ranking Member

**Questions for The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice**

Questions from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly

January 28, 2020, Hearing: "Protecting Those Who Blow the Whistle on Government Wrongdoing."

1. Who ultimately decides whether a whistleblower's claims in the intelligence community should be sent to Congress? Is there any independent oversight of this process?
2. As the Chairman of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) for all federal inspectors general (IGs), do you know if the community of inspectors general follows either formal or informal "best practices" when engaging whistleblowers?
3. Are there additional authorities that an IG might need, that Congress should provide, to ensure whistleblowers are afforded the protections they deserve?
4. Under the Inspector General Act of 1978, IGs can disclose the identity of a whistleblower either when the IG has consent from the employee or when disclosure becomes unavoidable during the investigation. Can you explain what it means for a disclosure to become "unavoidable"? Do you think this language allows for too much discretion as to what an "unavoidable" disclosure is?
5. There has been a lot of speculation in some circles that someone accused by a whistleblower should have the right to confront his or her accuser. Are these claims accurate?
6. You've performed public corruption work. Do you always need the whistleblower to come forward in trial to be successful?
7. In some cases, the Office of Special Counsel may receive allegations that directly implicate an office of inspector general. Do you think the OSC should have authority to refer a matter to the Council of the Inspectors General in such cases?
8. On January 16, 2020, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a decision that found "OMB withheld from obligation funds appropriated to the DoD for security assistance to Ukraine" ... and "violated the Impoundment Control Act." That's a finding of misconduct from the non-partisan GAO. What is the role of the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General (DOJ OIG) in following up on GAO's findings to determine the effects of the withheld obligating funding on our government?

9. As the Chairman of CIGIE, what do you think the role is of the IG community to follow up on the GAO's findings?