

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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### MEMORANDUM

October 24, 2019

**To: Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Subcommittee on National Security**

**Fr: Committee Staff**

**Re: Joint Hearing on “Examining the White House’s Dysfunctional Security Clearance System”**

On **Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Subcommittee on National Security will hold a joint hearing to assess the Trump Administration’s failure to comply with the Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency (SECRET) Act of 2018 and the national security implications of the White House’s failure to implement a robust security clearance investigation and adjudication process.

#### **I. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE HEARING**

Over the past three years, Members of this Committee have sought information about the Trump Administration’s apparent mishandling of security clearances, including a series of troubling incidents regarding the security clearances of some of President Trump’s top aides. The Committee has significant questions regarding the handling of security clearance adjudications for members of the Presidential Transition Team and White House staff who engaged in criminal conduct, have troubling foreign contacts, or have apparent conflicts of interest—including General Michael Flynn, Robert Porter, and Jared Kushner.

In light of these numerous reported irregularities with security clearances, Congress passed the SECRET Act with bipartisan support, and the law was signed by President Trump on May 22, 2018. Section 4 of that Act required the White House to submit a report to Congress by August 20, 2018, that “explains the process for conducting and adjudicating security clearance investigations for personnel of the Executive Office of the President, including personnel of the White House Office.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SECRET Act, Pub. L. No. 115-173, § 4 (2018).

To date, more than 14 months after the White House's report was due, the White House has failed to submit a report that fulfills the requirements of the SECRET Act.

The hearing will examine the White House's failure to submit this report to Congress in compliance with the law and how this failure is particularly troubling in light of significant apparent failings and dysfunctions in the White House security clearance process.

## **II. WITNESSES**

**Monica Block** (Invited)  
Acting Director  
White House Office of Administration

**Additional Witnesses TBD.**

Staff contacts: Janet Kim, Laura Waters, Wendy Ginsberg, and Dan Rebnord at (202) 225-5051.