

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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February 12, 2020

The Honorable Glenn A. Fine
Principal Deputy Inspector General
U.S. Department of Defense
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350

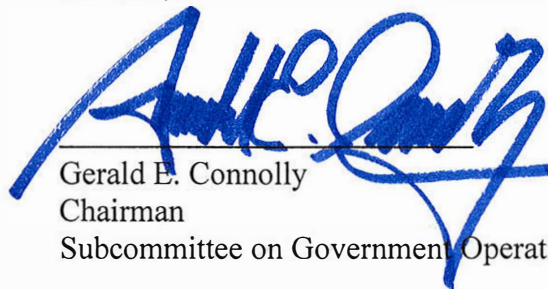
Dear Mr. Fine:

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 Glenn A. Fine
Principal Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense**

Questions from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly

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

1. 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 Defense Office of Inspector General (DOD OIG) in following up on GAO's findings to determine the effects of the withheld obligating funding on DOD, its staff, and its mission?
2. An important role of inspectors general is to investigate government misconduct. On November 12, 2019, you wrote to Senate Democrats, declining to open an investigation into the DOD's "delay in providing Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative funding." In your response you stated that the questions related to the delay in funding were "significant," but cited ongoing congressional investigations as a reason for not pursuing an investigation at the time. Given the new congressional context, what actions does the DOD IG plan to take to investigate these "significant" findings?
3. To your knowledge, has President Trump ordered the Department of Defense not to cooperate with any IG investigations related to the withholding of Ukraine security assistance?
4. To your knowledge, has President Trump ordered DOD OIG not to investigate any topics related to the withholding of Ukraine security assistance?
5. Have you ever had to battle the executive branch on questions of privilege? Have you ever successfully acquired information that was initially the subject of a privileged claim?
6. Are there additional authorities that an IG could use to ensure whistleblowers are afforded the protections they deserve?
7. 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"?

8. Do you find anonymous whistleblower claims helpful?