

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

The recent media reports that highly classified documents from the Obama presidency have been discovered in at least two locations, one being the Penn-Biden Center, a private, unsecured, non-governmental office space in Washington, D.C., and the other being an unknown location. News of these discoveries raise significant questions regarding the Biden Administration's handling and safeguarding of classified intelligence materials. The one location we do know about, the Penn-Biden Center was the Washington, D.C.-based office for operations of former Vice President Biden's private partnership with the University of Pennsylvania.

The presence of classified information at these separate locations could implicate the President in the mishandling, potential misuse, and exposure of classified information. It raises significant questions as to why then-Vice President Biden maintained custody of such highly classified documents, who had access to them, and for what purposes. The question of further dissemination of these documents, and potential use by those involved in the business of the unknown location and the Penn-Biden Center, or any other possible use, must be fully examined.

In its oversight role, Congress has a responsibility to investigate and to evaluate the actions of Executive Branch agencies to ensure they are accountable to the people. The information I seek will further our understanding of both the enforcement and application of federal law and policy concerning the handling of classified intelligence information. It will enable me to determine the sufficiency and impartiality of federal law enforcement, as well as the propriety of Executive Branch actions. This includes the suppression of the fact that classified information was discovered at two separate locations and the apparent disparate treatment by the Department of Justice.

I request a briefing by you no later than January 26, 2023, concerning your perceived risk to national security. Additionally, I will expect you to provide a detailed description of the materials and documents found at the unknown location and the Penn-Biden Center on November 2, 2022, and a determination of, during the six-year period, who had knowledge and access to these documents, whether the documents were provided to anyone else, and whether the information contained therein was disseminated to persons without the proper security clearance or need to know.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress