

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 12, 2022

The Honorable Avril Haines
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Haines,

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 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 then-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 my 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. As such, I request that you provide a classified briefing to me no later than January 26, 2023. During this briefing, be prepared to answer the following questions concerning documents found at all locations:

- Has the ODNI determined whether there has been an actual or suspected unauthorized disclosure or compromise of classified national intelligence?
- Which Intelligence Community element(s) produced them and how widely disseminated were they?
- Why and exactly when were the documents provided to Vice President Biden, in what context, and for what purpose?

- Why did then-Vice President Biden maintain copies of these documents and was the originating element of the Intelligence Community aware of the retention?
- Were there any efforts made by the originating elements of the Intelligence Community to have the documents returned to their possession once then-Vice President Biden's term had ended?
- Who authorized these documents to be moved outside of government control and what was the chain of custody in their movement from government facilities to non-government facilities?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress