

CONGRESSIONAL INTEGRITY PROJECT

August 5, 2024

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

In light of your stated interest in rooting out election interference and influence peddling, we want to draw your attention to a new troubling report about a potential \$10 million donation from Egyptian President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi to Donald Trump's 2016 campaign.¹ The reporting also details a potential cover up by Trump political appointees during a 2019 investigation into this alleged donation. We are calling on you to investigate possible influence peddling and foreign election interference involving a former president and current presidential candidate and its subsequent coverup.

It has been previously reported that federal prosecutors investigated a possible connection between a \$10 million loan Trump gave his campaign right before the 2016 election and the Egyptian government.² New reporting from The Washington Post reveals a \$10 million cash withdrawal from a bank account linked to the Egyptian intelligence service shortly before Trump's inauguration in 2017.³ The Washington Post's investigation also revealed that classified U.S. intelligence indicated that Egyptian President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi sought to donate \$10 million to Donald Trump's 2016 campaign.⁴

¹ Aaron C. Davis and Carol D. Leonnig, *\$10M cash withdrawal drove secret probe into whether Trump took money from Egypt*, The Washington Post (August 2, 2024)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2024/08/02/trump-campaign-egypt-investigation>.

² Katelyn Polantz, Evan Perez and Jeremy Herb, *Exclusive: Feds chased suspected foreign link to Trump's 2016 campaign cash for three years*, CNN (October 14, 2020)

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/14/politics/trump-campaign-donation-investigation/index.html>.

³ Aaron C. Davis and Carol D. Leonnig, *\$10M cash withdrawal drove secret probe into whether Trump took money from Egypt*, The Washington Post (August 2, 2024)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2024/08/02/trump-campaign-egypt-investigation>.

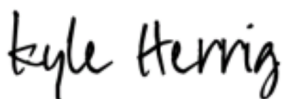
⁴ Ibid.

The possible \$10 million cash infusion from a foreign government is troubling enough, but the Post’s reporting also details Trump appointees interfered with and covered up the Egypt probe.⁵ Trump appointees at the Justice Department blocked FBI agents from getting access to bank records after learning about the \$10 million cash withdrawal. Trump’s former Attorney General Bill Barr obstructed the investigation numerous times. Barr reportedly dissuaded U.S. Attorney Jessie Liu, another Trump appointee, from authorizing a subpoena into Trump’s bank records and later pushed her out of her position to replace her with a longtime ally. Barr also went to FBI Director Christopher Wray to tell him to apply “adult supervision” to his agents who were tirelessly investigating the possible Egyptian money transfer.

Throughout your impeachment investigation into President Biden and his family, you have repeatedly expressed concern about influence peddling, particularly in regards to foreign governments. Last May, you stated plainly “the American people need to know” if our nation’s leaders “sold out the United States of America” for profit.⁶ In media appearances, you shared your deeply held concerns about political leaders allegedly using their public office to “engage in influence peddling with our adversaries . . . most [concerningly], China.”⁷ You further stated that government officials seeking to curry favor from foreign governments for personal gain would be especially problematic because it presents a clear “national security risk” to the United States.⁸

This development requires you turn your concerns into action, put the country over your party, and do some meaningful oversight.

Sincerely,



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⁵ Ibid.

⁶ House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Press Release (May 3, 2023), Grassley, Comer Demand FBI Record Alleging Criminal Scheme Involving Then-VP Biden, <https://oversight.house.gov/release/grassley-comer-demand-fbi-record-alleging-criminal-scheme-involving-then-vp-biden/>.

⁷ ‘Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo’, *Biden family was influence peddling with US adversaries: Rep. James Comer*, Fox News (Dec. 4, 2022), <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6316573410112>.

⁸ Ibid.