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The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Director Patel:

I write with grave concern for American national security given the recent report in *The Atlantic* that several high-ranking members of the Trump Administration, including Vice President J.D. Vance, mishandled highly sensitive and likely classified information about U.S. national security operations. Any American who values the sacrifices our troops make to keep our country safe should be deeply outraged by this report. I therefore call on you to immediately open an impartial investigation into this matter and commit to ensuring any individuals found to have compromised U.S. national security interests and violated federal law are held fully accountable for their actions.

According to a Monday, March 24, 2025 article in *The Atlantic*, National Security Advisor Michael Waltz mistakenly added the publication's editor in chief, Jeffrey Goldberg, to a Signal group chat comprised of senior Trump Administration officials, including Vice President J.D. Vance, Secretary of Defense Peter Hegseth, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, and Central Intelligence Agency Director John Ratcliffe.¹ Over the course of the next two days, the group discussed U.S. plans to conduct strikes against the Houthis in Yemen containing a shocking level of granularity on details such as the targets, timing, and types of weaponry to be used in the strikes.² It is unconscionable that the very

¹ Goldberg, Jeffrey. 'The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans.' *The Atlantic*, March 24, 2025 (online at: <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/>). Stanton, Andrew. 'Full List of Trump Officials on Signal Text Chain with Journalist.' *Newsweek*, March 25, 2025 (online at: <https://www.newsweek.com/full-list-trump-officials-signal-text-journalist-2050177>).

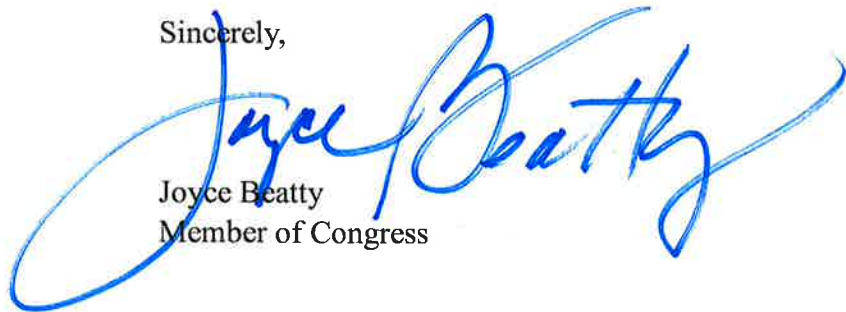
² Goldberg, Jeffrey. 'The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its War Plans.' *The Atlantic*, March 24, 2025 (online at: <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2025/03/trump-administration-accidentally-texted-me-its-war-plans/682151/>).

individuals entrusted with keeping our nation safe may have compromised national security and put the lives of American troops in danger by grossly negligent actions.

National security experts have opined that, based on the messages from the group chat that have been released, the information discussed would be highly restricted, if not classified at some of the highest levels.³ This would make the mention of these details to unauthorized persons – including a reporter like Mr. Goldberg – unlawful and its discussion outside of a secure location like a SCIF, let alone on personal devices, while traveling internationally, and through a commercially available application like Signal, also improper. Moreover, subsequent reports suggest that Department of Defense and other officials understood the risks posed by conducting any operations – even those related to unclassified topics – on Signal, as a March 18, 2025 Pentagon-wide memo reportedly warned Department employees of Russian-linked hacking groups using the application to “spy on persons of interest,” and reminded them that “third-party messaging apps (e.g. Signal)...are not approved to process or store non-public unclassified information.”⁴

As the Department of Justice, you have the responsibility – as part of your stated mission – “to uphold the rule of law and keep our country safe,” and to “follow the facts and the law wherever they may lead, without prejudice.”⁵ Despite this Administration’s clearly demonstrated belief that it is above the law, it is imperative that you fulfill the duties of the positions you swore an oath to serve in. I therefore demand that you conduct a timely, thorough, and proper investigation into the reported mishandling of national defense-related information by senior Trump Administration officials and take all resulting steps necessary to hold those who committed violations of federal law fully accountable. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

³ See, e.g., Copp, Tara; Madhani, Aamer; Tucker, Eric. ‘Trump Officials Texted Attack Plans to a Group Chat in a Secure App that Included a Journalist.’ *AP*, March 25, 2025 (online at: <https://apnews.com/article/war-plans-trump-hcgseth-atlantic-230718a984911dd8663d59edbc86f2a>).

⁴ Lawrence, Quil and Bowman, Todd. ‘Ahead of Signal Leak, the Pentagon Warned of the App’s Weaknesses.’ *NPR*, March 25, 2025 (online at: <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/25/nx-s1-5339801/pentagon-email-signal-vulnerability>).

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice. ‘About DOJ.’ (online at: <https://www.justice.gov/about>).