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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

February 7, 2018

Chairman Trey Gowdy
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gowdy,

I am deeply disturbed by details of former Staff Secretary Rob Porter's resignation. According to reports, two former wives of Mr. Porter have come forward with credible allegations of physical and emotional abuse. One of the women filed a restraining order against Mr. Porter. These charges are alarming because this conduct is beneath the office of Staff Secretary but also because it raises very serious national security concerns.

These allegations were brought to light by the FBI background examination required to obtain the security clearance necessary for the Staff Secretary role. Shockingly, reports indicate that Chief of Staff John Kelly had knowledge of these disqualifying issues prior to the investigation and nevertheless allowed Porter to handle top secret materials without a proper clearance.

As a former White House Staff Secretary, I am acutely aware of the unique responsibilities the position demands. I have serious questions about the decision to allow Mr. Porter to retain his job for over a year as well as the process of extending to him any level of interim security clearance. Mr. Porter's history made him a primary target for blackmail while serving in the role. Allowing him to handle sensitive national security documents without conducting a background check is cause for bipartisan concern.

Therefore, I request that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform investigate the events surrounding Mr. Porter's employment, security clearance and resignation.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress