

JACKIE SPEIER
14TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2465 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0514
(202) 225-3531
FAX: (202) 226-4183

155 BOVET ROAD, SUITE 780
SAN MATEO, CA 94402
(650) 342-0300
FAX: (650) 375-8270

WWW.SPEIER.HOUSE.GOV
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JACKIESPEIER
WWW.TWITTER.COM/REPSPEIER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0514

March 22, 2016

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER, OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATION
MILITARY PERSONNEL

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
EMERGING THREATS
NSA AND CYBERSECURITY

Senior Whip

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

As you begin work on the FY 2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, we request you include adequate funding to the House Office of the Sergeant at Arms to support Top Secret Sensitive Compartmented Information Security (TS/SCI) Clearance investigations for individual designees from each House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Member's personal staff.

The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is charged with oversight of the United States Intelligence Community, including some of the most time-sensitive and complicated information crucial to our nation's national security, however, there has not been funding appropriated to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms to support TS/SCI Clearance investigations necessary for personal staff offices to have a designee available to support their Member for hearings and markups. This places an onerous burden on individual Members, as they are unable to have the assistance of staff at the most crucial times, and is a major oversight considering their counterparts on the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence are afforded SCI Clearance investigations for personal office designees. That system has worked effectively on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for decades without any negative effect on the confidentiality of intelligence information, and the House Permanent Select Committee should place its members on an equal footing.

We wish to request an increase in funding for the House Office of the Sergeant at Arms of \$125,000 in order to support the required cost of the additional staff investigations. This request will support Members as they review complicated and urgent obstacles our intelligence community must grapple with.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,


Jackie Speier

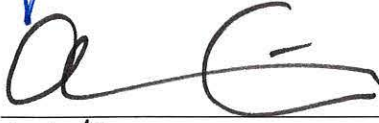

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