

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 29, 2018

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Congressional oversight of foreign policy is a key part of our constitutional system of government, and without adequate information, the checks and balances at the core of that system cannot function as designed. Consequently, we are gravely concerned about the dearth of information provided to Congress regarding nuclear negotiations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Congress has yet to be briefed on the Singapore summit; the parameters of ongoing negotiations; and the overall negotiation strategy by senior members of the Administration. Our concern was recently heightened by the sharp curtailment of information shared with the United States Congress regarding North Korea. We specifically object to the contents of a notification provided by the Office of the Director for National Intelligence dated September 26, 2018 and a subsequent notice dated October 12, 2018 and urge that these be immediately rescinded.

There is abundant precedent for the sharing of information on sensitive national security matters with the relevant committees of jurisdiction in Congress. That includes ongoing negotiations on issues such as the Iran nuclear program, negotiations with the Taliban, the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement and various military efforts around the world. The sharing of such information is consistent with Congressional oversight responsibilities and it has enabled members of Congress to make educated legislative decisions.

For years, Members and appropriately cleared congressional staff have had access to U.S. intelligence regarding the state of the North Korean nuclear program, weapons of mass destruction, and ballistic missile technology. That includes specific information as late as July. Such information is vital to our committees' oversight and legislative work on North Korea.

We fear that the Administration is taking the unprecedented step of curtailing the distribution of previously available information to Congress in order to limit Congressional oversight into these matters.

We share the Trump Administration's objective of a diplomatic resolution to the challenge posed by North Korea. However, North Korea still has much to deliver to meaningfully improve the security situation on the Korean Peninsula and to realize a new chapter in the U.S.-North Korea relationship as the President has offered. Therefore, it is crucial for

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Congress and appropriately cleared congressional staff to have the most up-to-date intelligence and information possible regarding North Korea. Keeping Congress informed on this matter will enable our committees to execute necessary oversight and fulfill our Constitutional obligation to the American people. As such, we again register our strong objections to Congressional Notification from the Office of the Director for National Intelligence dated September 26, 2018 and October 12, 2018.

We look forward to your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



ADAM SCHIFF  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



ADAM SMITH  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Armed Services

CC:

The Honorable Daniel Coats  
Director of National Intelligence

The Honorable Michael Pompeo  
Secretary of State

The Honorable James Mattis  
Secretary of Defense