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One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2023

Jen Psaki
Former White House Press Secretary
Transmitted Electronically

Dear Ms. Psaki:

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs is investigating the Biden Administration's August 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan. Given your service as White House Press Secretary throughout 2021, with significant involvement in matters related to Afghanistan, you are a critical witness for this investigation. The Committee requests that you appear for a transcribed interview.

Please arrange to be available by no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on September 18, 2023 for this transcribed interview to be scheduled.

Congress' oversight powers are derived from the U.S. Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court.¹ Under House Rule X, the Committee has legislative and oversight jurisdiction over “[r]elations of the United States with foreign nations generally,” “[d]iplomatic service,” and “[p]rotection of American citizens abroad and expatriation.”² Furthermore, 22 U.S.C. § 2680 states, “The Department of State shall keep the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives fully and currently informed with respect to all activities and

¹ See generally U.S. CONST. art. I, § 8, cl. 8; *McGrain v. Daugherty*, 273 U.S. 135, 174 (1927) (holding that “the power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function”); *Eastland v. U.S. Servicemen's Fund*, 421 U.S. 491, 504 (1975) (holding that “the power to investigate is inherent in the power to make laws”); *Barenblatt v. United States*, 360 U.S. 109, 111 (1959) (holding that “the scope of power of inquiry ... is as penetrating and far-reaching as the potential power to enact and appropriate under the Constitution.”).

² *Rules of the House of Representatives: One Hundred Eighteenth Congress*, U.S. HOUSE OF REP. 7 (Jan. 10, 2023), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>.

responsibilities within the jurisdiction of these committees. *Any Federal department, agency, or independent establishment shall furnish any information requested by either such committee relating to any such activity or responsibility.*³

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee

CC:

Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee

³ 22 U.S.C. § 2680(b) (emphasis added).