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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
JENNIFER DUCK, *Democratic Staff Director*

August 04, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Elaine Duke
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the U.S. Capitol Police recently arrested Imran Awan, a congressional I.T. specialist for several members of the U.S. House of Representatives, as he was trying to leave the country for his native Pakistan.¹ According to an FBI affidavit, Awan was arrested for allegedly engaging in a bank fraud scheme by obtaining a home equity line of credit based on material misrepresentations.² News reports state that Awan wired \$300,000 of the proceeds from the fraudulent activity to Pakistan.³ In attempting the wire transfer, Awan pretended to be his wife, lied that the transfer was for “funeral arrangements,” and then told the bank manager to hold while he googled a reason for the transfer.⁴ Reportedly, there were other wire transfers to Pakistan in addition to the \$300,000.⁵

Awan began working as an I.T. aide in 2004.⁶ Later, his wife, two brothers, and two friends began working as I.T. aides for nearly 30 congressmen.⁷ Over the span of 13 years, they

¹ Chad Pergram and Jake Gibson, *Feds Arrest IT Staffer for Wasserman Schultz Trying to Leave Country* (July 25, 2017), available at <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/07/25/feds-arrest-it-staffer-for-wasserman-schultz-trying-to-leave-country.html>

² FBI Affidavit. Available at <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3900669-Awan-Imran-Complaint-and-Affidavit.html>

³ Eli Watkins, *Democratic staffer arrested on bank fraud charge*, CNN (July 27, 2017); Luke Rosiak, *Wasserman Schultz Aide in Pakistan Still Liquidating Assets in US*, Daily Caller (July 30, 2017).

⁴ Luke Rosiak, *Wasserman Schultz Aide in Pakistan Still Liquidating Assets in US*, Daily Caller (July 30, 2017).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Luke Rosiak, *Pakistani Suspects In House IT Probe Received \$4 Million From Dem Reps*, Daily Caller (March 1, 2017)

⁷ Luke Rosiak, *Pakistani Suspects In House IT Probe Received \$4 Million From Dem Reps*, Daily Caller (March 1, 2017); Nicholas Fandos, *Trump Fuels Intrigue Surrounding a Former I.T. Worker's Arrest*, The New York Times (July 28, 2017).

collected more than \$4 million—a sum that is reported to be three times higher than the norm for a government contractor.⁸

In light of the alleged illegal activity, the Committee seeks to better understand Awan and his associates' immigration histories. Therefore, please provide the Alien File for the individuals listed below. Please also include any temporary files, working files, and all documents and items contained in them that were generated by DHS or in its possession about each individual listed below, whether currently in written or electronic form, including criminal history and immigration summaries, detainers, or requests for notification, if applicable.

- Imran Awan
- Hina Alvi
- Abid Awan
- Natalia Sova
- Jamal Awan
- Rao Abbas

I anticipate that your written response and the responsive documents will be unclassified. Please send all unclassified material directly to the Committee. In keeping with the requirements of Executive Order 13526, if any of the responsive documents do contain classified information, please segregate all unclassified material within the classified documents, provide all unclassified information directly to the Committee, and provide a classified addendum to the Office of Senate Security. The Committee complies with all laws and regulations governing the handling of classified information. The Committee is not bound, absent its prior agreement, by any handling restrictions or instructions on unclassified information unilaterally asserted by the Executive Branch.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please respond by August 18, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Nikas and Josh Flynn-Brown of my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

⁸ Tyler O'Neil, *Imran Awan Scandal Shows Just How Much Dirt Dems Wanted to Hide By Focusing on Trump-Russia*, PJ Media (July 27, 2017).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Cc:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary