

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cotton  
Chairman  
United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Risch  
Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker, Chairman Cotton, and Chairman Risch:

We write to you with grave concern regarding the recent revelations reported in *The Atlantic* about the Trump Administration's reckless handling of classified information about U.S. military operations. According to the reporting and the screenshots provided in the original story and a second piece published the following day, the Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Director of National Intelligence, the National Security Advisor, and other key national security officials discussed classified information about imminent U.S. military operations using internet-connected smartphones that were not approved for discussing classified information, via a commercial, unclassified messaging app called "Signal." Planning military strikes using consumer-grade, internet-connected smartphones is reckless and illegal because they can be hacked by foreign governments. Additionally, due to their inexcusable carelessness, a reporter was added to this Signal chat and was provided access to incredibly sensitive information about future military operations that included planned air strikes on terrorist targets. This gross mishandling of highly classified information has weakened our national security and could have put at risk American lives, particularly the men and women involved in the military strikes in Yemen.

It is even more outrageous that members of the Trump Administration – from the President to Cabinet officials who were part of the Signal group – have tried to downplay, mislead, and excuse this reckless and likely illegal behavior. During a recent Senate oversight hearing featuring Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard and CIA Director John Ratcliffe, Senators and the American people were left with more questions than answers following the officials' testimony and repeated evasions.

Since that initial hearing, and as a direct result of Administration officials' attempts to downplay the severity of the breach and the importance of the information disclosed, additional reporting from *the Atlantic* has been published containing further details of what was actually discussed,


which included strike planning and explicit operational details like specific timing, types of aircraft used, and sequencing of events related to the pending attack on the Houthi terrorists, any of which could have jeopardized the operation and endangered servicemembers if it had fallen into the hands of our adversaries in advance. This raises pressing questions regarding the possible spillage of classified information to an uncleared reporter and onto unclassified devices which can be hacked by foreign intelligence agencies, the irresponsibility of high-ranking Administration officials, and the increased risk this created for U.S. troops who carried out the strikes.


For this reason, we are calling on the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to hold joint or separate hearings to investigate this matter fully and get to the bottom of why members of the National Security Council were using unclassified, internet-connected smartphones and channels to discuss highly sensitive military information, when there are known ways to tamper with unclassified devices and when it is possible that dozens of foreign intelligence agencies are targeting the unclassified smartphones used by these senior U.S. government officials. The American people deserve answers, and we need to know if there are any other such chat conversations using Signal or any other messaging app or other actions being taken by Trump Administration officials that are putting our national security and military personnel at risk. We urge your committees to use the Senate's full oversight powers to compel the following individuals, who were part of the messaging group, to speak to the Senate in both open and closed hearings:

- Vice President JD Vance;
- Secretary of Defense Pete Hagseth;
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio;
- National Security Advisor Michael Waltz;
- Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard;
- CIA Director John Ratcliffe;
- White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles;
- Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller; and
- U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff.

Our national security demands that we act with urgency to uncover the full details of this severe security breach and implement measures to prevent such recklessness in the future. We look forward to your prompt attention to this matter and stand ready to support the committees in any capacity necessary. We trust that you will give this matter the serious attention it requires.

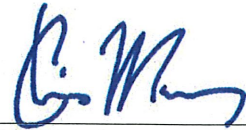
Sincerely,

  
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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

  
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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Chris Murphy  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



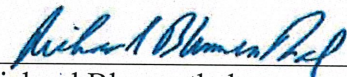
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Cory Booker  
United States Senator



Gary Peters  
United States Senator



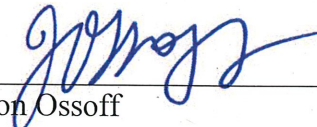
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator