



July 21, 2017

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Chairman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
211 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner  
Ranking Member  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
211 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: White House Official Jared Kushner Must Testify in Open Session

Dear Senator:

The American Civil Liberties Union strongly urges you to have Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor Jared Kushner testify before the Intelligence Committee and the Judiciary Committee in open session. While we appreciate that having Mr. Kushner interviewed by Intelligence Committee staff behind closed doors on Monday is a step towards oversight, a staff interview in a closed setting is no substitute for an open committee hearing on a matter of unparalleled importance to our democracy. We strongly urge both committees to schedule Mr. Kushner for an open hearing, and compel his attendance, if necessary.

In a long string of media reports on both Russian interference in the American presidential election, as well as attempts to interfere with the investigation of Russian interference and any collusion with the Trump

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campaign or its associates, Mr. Kushner is regularly and prominently included as a participant in the alleged events. Among the allegations are:

- Mr. Kushner's participation in meetings with Russian officials, representatives, and financiers during the campaign and transition period;
- his business relationships with Russian financiers while advising then-candidate Donald Trump;
- his role in overseeing data analysis and targeting for the campaign and concerns about targeting information being transmitted to Russian agents;
- his solicitation of the Russian government to use a Russian back-channel electronic communications line;
- his failure to disclose meetings with Russian officials and agents on his application for a security clearance; and
- his advice to President Trump on firing FBI Director James Comey during the FBI investigation of Russian interference and possible collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign.

These are all serious allegations, which if proven true, raise significant concerns about whether the Trump campaign colluded with the Russian government to interfere with an American presidential election, and whether the President and his senior staff tried to thwart an ongoing criminal investigation. These questions go to the very heart of our democracy—to both the sanctity of our democratic elections and to our adherence to the rule of law, including the fundamental principle that no one is above or beyond the reach of the law.

We urge you to follow the Intelligence Committee's precedent of having key figures in these developments testify in open session. In particular, the American people benefited from being able to hear the testimony of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and former FBI Director Comey. There is no reason that Mr. Kushner should also not testify in open session.

Mr. Kushner must testify in open session about his role. While Mr. Kushner's reticence to speak publicly has been the object of satire, his silence here and now is serious in undermining the ability of the Senate to conduct oversight, and in blocking the ability of the American people to understand the scope of the harm caused to our democracy.

The actions of the President and his advisors have thrown the country into a constitutional crisis, and Mr. Kushner himself has had a significant role in creating the crisis. The American people have the right to get honest answers to questions that go to the very heart of our democracy and our constitutional system of checks and balances. Both of your committees must insist on his testimony in open session.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and we look forward to your response.  
Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Faiz Shakir'.

Faiz Shakir  
National Political Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Anders'.

Christopher Anders  
Deputy Director

CC: All Senators