

September 9th, 2020

Honorable John Ratcliffe
Director, Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Re: Congressional Briefings on Election Security.

Dear Director Ratcliffe,

The undersigned organizations are writing to your office to urge you to reverse your recent decision to limit in-person congressional briefings on election security. We instead ask that your office re-commit to briefing both chambers of Congress, in person, on intelligence your office has gathered on foreign-based attacks on our democracy. While we are encouraged by Acting Chairman Rubio's suggestion that your office will continue to brief the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, our organizations urge you to treat both chambers of Congress equally and continue allowing all members of Congress ask questions of your office at in-person briefings.¹

Efforts to interfere with American elections are a serious threat to our democratic process and undermine public confidence in our institutions. You hold an office of public trust that requires you to treat all matters before you in an impartial, non-partisan manner. You have an obligation to accurately and fully answer questions from Members of Congress, who are the people's elected representatives. As the Legislative branch that is responsible for oversight of the Executive branch and holds lawmaking authority, the DNI must refrain from raising pretextual concerns to absolve your office of its obligation to answer to congressional oversight committees. As such, it is critical that your office continue responding to all congressional oversight inquiries and continue to appear in-person to answer questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are happy to discuss further or to answer any questions you may have. For more information, please contact Freddy Martinez at fmartinez@open-thegovernment.org.

Sincerely,

Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee

Demand Progress

Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)

Government Accountability Project

¹ Falconer, Rebecca. "Rubio: Congressional oversight of intelligence faces 'historic crisis'." *Axios*, August 30th 2020. <https://www.axios.com/rubio-congress-intelligence-oversight-crisis-a91c903f-d18d-47e6-813b-f2aea4440cca.html>

Government Information Watch

In the Public Interest

Issue One

National Security Counselors

Open The Government

PEN America

Project on Government Oversight