



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 01, 2017

The Honorable Gregg Harper
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert A. Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1307 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Harper and Ranking Member Brady:

We write to express our strong opposition to the lack of transparency and disclosure of the Members of Congress who have settled sexual harassment claims using taxpayer dollars through the Office of Compliance. We believe these undisclosed settlements are deeply disturbing and go against everything we stand for as a deliberative body. Over the Thanksgiving recess, constituents in our districts and across the nation expressed their deep concern over the allegations and lack of transparency within Congress. Therefore, we respectfully request that you work with the Office of Compliance to release further information on sexual harassment settlements paid for at taxpayer expense.

Over the past several weeks, many brave individuals across the country have revealed their stories of sexual harassment and misconduct. It has been reported that a number of these allegations are tied to Members of Congress, past and present. It is deeply disturbing to know that current and future employees could be entering an unsafe work environment within the walls of Congress.

In an attempt at transparency, the Office of Compliance recently released its settlement figures over the past twenty years, totaling over \$17 million. However, this figure does not break down into specific claims, meaning the public is still unaware of how much taxpayer money has been awarded to sexual harassment claims over the last twenty years. The Office of Compliance has stated that “a large portion of cases originate from employing offices in the legislative branch other than the House of Representatives or the Senate, and involve various statutory provisions incorporated by the CAA [Congressional Accountability Act of 1995], such as the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act”.¹ The public has a right to know how much of their taxpayer

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money has been used for sexual harassment settlements over the last twenty years, in addition to which employing offices were involved.

In light of these developments, we ask that you work with the Office of Compliance to address the following requests. We request that all sexual harassment settlements over \$10,000 paid through the Office of Compliance be released to the public immediately. Specifically, we request that information regarding the name of the perpetrator, the employing office of the perpetrator, and the amount paid to the victim be released. We request that the victim be permitted to remain anonymous in any sexual harassment settlement disclosures. Additionally, we request that the total amount of any sexual harassment-related settlement paid through the Office of Compliance since 1997 be released to the public without delay. Finally, we request that future sexual harassment settlements be made public.

The American taxpayer has the right to know how their money is being spent. Moreover, current and future employees have the right to know if they are entering a hostile work environment. Releasing this information will increase government transparency for the American taxpayer, create a safer work environment in the legislative branch, and hold these perpetrators accountable for their actions.

We support your efforts to strengthen policies that guard against and report sexual harassment and misconduct in Congress. To that end, we urge you to work with the Office of Compliance to release further information on sexual harassment settlements immediately.

Sincerely,



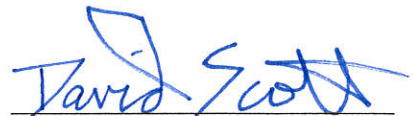
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



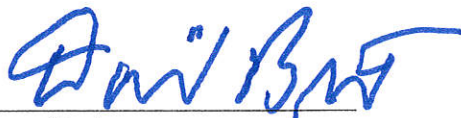
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



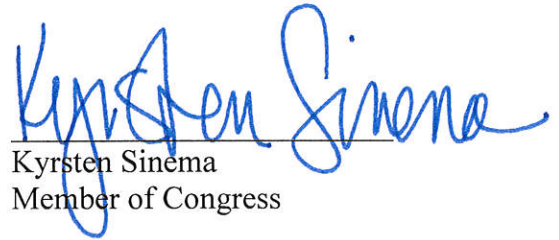
Dave Brat
Member of Congress



Mimi Walters
Member of Congress



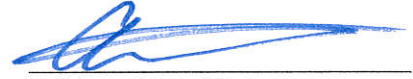
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



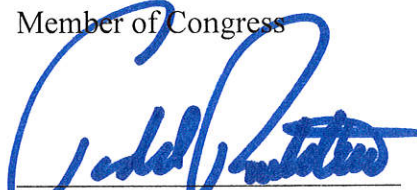
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



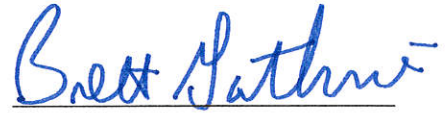
Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



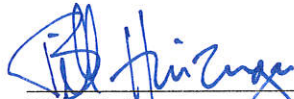
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



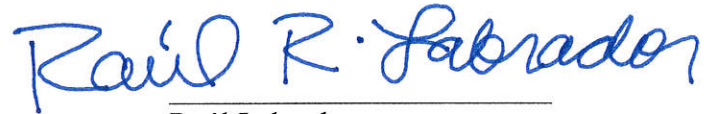
Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Raúl Labrador
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress