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April 8, 2019

Mr. John V. Kelly
Acting Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
Office of Inspector General
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Last week, in the wake of reports that “Secret Service agents arrested a Chinese woman after she bypassed layers of security and gained access to the reception area of President Trump’s Florida resort ... carrying two passports and a thumb drive containing malicious software,” I wrote to request that you (1) review the vetting processes used by federal officials at Mar-a-Lago to protect the President from potential national security threats, and (2) determine if White House officials interfered with or ignored Secret Service recommendations about which individuals should be allowed access to the President.¹

Today, new reports reveal that the March breach may have been more serious than indicated by initial reports, and that “the woman who allegedly breached security at [Mar-a-Lago] ... had a signal detector, other electronic devices, and thousands of dollars in cash in her hotel room,” and that the “FBI has been investigating the ... incident ‘as part of a Chinese espionage effort.’”²

As this report broke, news outlets reported that “President Donald Trump instructed his acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, to fire” Randolph “Tex” Alles, the United States Secret Service Director.³

These two reports are deeply troubling, raising additional concerns about how the White House is handling Secret Service security matters at Mar-a-Lago and elsewhere.

¹ Letter from Sen. Warren and Rep. Stephen Lynch, to Acting DHS Inspector General John Kelly, April 4, 2019, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/DHS%20IG%20letter%20Mar-a-Lago%20Access%20to%20the%20President%20FINAL.pdf>.

² CNN, “Woman accused of illegal entry to Mar-a-Lago had numerous electronic devices, thousands in cash,” April 8, 2019, <https://www.cnn.com/2019/04/08/politics/mar-a-lago-yujing-zhang/index.html?r=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2Fsearch%2F%3Fq%3DChinese%2Bmar-a-lago>.

³ CNN, “Trump is removing U.S. Secret Service director,” April 8, 2019, <https://www.cnn.com/2019/04/08/politics/randolph-tex-alles-secret-service-director/index.html>.

I therefore write to ask that you expand any investigation of the recent security breach at Mar-a-Lago to include an examination of the circumstances surrounding President Trump's reported firing of the Secret Service Director.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Warren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right and a vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator