

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joseph Morelle
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1216 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chairman Steil, and Ranking Member Morelle,

I wrote to you on September 4, 2024, regarding the need for training on the proper handling and management of classified information for all Members of Congress as we ramp up the 119th Congress. Further, Democrats proposed including language on classified information training under the Office of House Security (OHS) in the Rules Package (H. Res. 5); however, this provision was not ultimately included. I am reaching out to follow up on our [request](#) and strongly encourage you to promote and expand opportunities for Members to receive this critical training.

Given the recent events involving executive branch officials' spillage of national security information, it is imperative that all government personnel receive adequate training on the proper handling and management of classified material. Members of Congress are no exception. Members should be equipped with the knowledge and skills to handle classified information appropriately to effectively carry out their duties and safeguard our country. In particular, Members serving on committees that regularly manage classified information—such as the House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Homeland Security, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and relevant subcommittees of the House Committee on Appropriations (Defense, State and Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water)—should be heavily encouraged to participate in such tailored training.

While Members of Congress bring expertise from various domains, most have never had to access, handle, manage, or disseminate classified information before joining Congress. Previous incidents involving the unintentional or imprudent release of critical intelligence—during open hearings, conferences, press interactions, or offhand comments—demonstrate the critical need for such training. Such lapses not only compromise national security but can also undermine our intelligence community and endanger the safety of our citizens both at home and abroad.

I strongly urge you to prioritize training for the proper handling and management of classified information for the 119th Congress. This initiative would leverage existing House Security resources and promote the fundamental democratic principles of transparency, accountability, and national security.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress