



# Democracy Reform Task Force

## Unanswered Letters from House of Representatives to Trump Administration

May 2017\*

- 1) **May 1, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Don Beyer, David Cicilline, Bill Pascrell, and Pramila Jayapal to 106 Democrats calling upon President Trump to help innocent Syrians by rescinding his Executive Order suspending the Refugee Admissions Program and to maintain support for humanitarian aid programs that assist Syrians in crisis.
- 2) **May 1, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 57 Bipartisan members of Congress to President Trump in support of ENERGY STAR; a voluntary program that has helped American consumers save billions of dollars on their utility bills since 1992.
- 3) **May 1, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi with 68 Members of Congress to Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly urging him to use the full powers of his office to combat hate motivated attacks
- 4) **May 1, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 149 Bipartisan Members of Congress to President Trump, denouncing President Trump's policies toward women's health and women's rights during the first 100 days of his administration.
- 5) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 47 bipartisan Members of Congress urging Secretary Kelly to Extend Temporary Protected Status for Haitian Nationals.
- 6) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Davidson, Davis, Poliquin, and Espaillet with 32 other members to Secretary DeVos urging to reverse education grant rejections due to minor errors.



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- 7) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Reps. DeLauro and Schakowsky with 31 other members to Secretary Wilbur Ross urging him to address Russia Trade Violations.
- 8) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Reps. Deutch, Schakowsky, Matsui and Larson to President Trump urging him to protect social security and not to cut entitlements.
- 9) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Congressman Ryan urging President Trump to assist with the ongoing effort to have Claudia Hoerig extradited to the United States to stand trial for the murder of her husband, U.S. Air Force Reserve Major Karl Hoerig.
- 10) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 16 bipartisan members of Congress to Secretary Mattis urgently calling on him to brief Congress at his “earliest opportunity” before the U.S. approves or assists a potentially catastrophic military action by Saudi Arabia in Yemen.
- 11) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Larson, Deutch, Schakowsky, and Matsui to President Trump urging him to protect Social Security by rejecting any proposal that would weaken dedicated funding to the Social Security Trust Funds.
- 12) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 55 Democratic Members of Congress, led by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, to President Trump, urging him to dismiss Sebastian Gorka from his Administration.
- 13) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member McEachin to Interior Secretary Zinke asking for more information about the newly expanded authority of Deputy Secretary James Cason to review major decisions and grants of more than \$100,000.



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- 14) **May 2, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Ranking Member McEachin to Interior Secretary Zinke requesting information on a deregulation "task force" Zinke created that seems to operate without public scrutiny or input from relevant career staff with subject matter expertise.
- 15) **May 3, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 11 bipartisan members of Congress to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai urging him to consider applying broadcast transparency requirements to state-sponsored media outlets like RT, formerly known as Russia Today.
- 16) **May 4, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Jayapal, McEachin and Barragan to EPA Administrator Pruitt urging him to strengthen the EPA's Environmental Justice Program.
- 17) **May 4, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva to Interior Secretary Zinke pressing him to explain how the Interior Department can "delay" implementation of a rule on the value of federal natural resources that already went into effect.
- 18) **May 4, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva to President Trump inviting him on a tour of Civil War sites protected by the National Park Service (NPS), offering Trump a chance to learn more about a defining moment in American history.
- 19) **May 4, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Ranking Member Johnson to Attorney General Sessions to correct several significant factual and legal deficiencies contained in Chairman Smith's letter.
- 20) **May 5, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 4 members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation to Administrator Michael P. Huerta requesting that the agency measure noise levels from incoming and departing flights from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).



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- 21) **May 5, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative O'Halleran to Interior Secretary Zinke concerning the recent executive order directing the Department of Interior to review the establishment history and status of national monuments created since 1996.
- 22) **May 8, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 9 bipartisan members of Congress to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin urging him to target the financial interests of high-level military and political officials in South Sudan.
- 23) **May 8, 2017** – [Letter](#) from a bipartisan group of House members, led by Rep. Lawrence, to President Trump asking for the appointment of Governors to the United States Postal Service Board of Governors.
- 24) **May 8, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 21 House Foreign Affairs Committee Democratic Members to President Trump urging him to stop jeopardizing the safety of American diplomats by nominating an Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security.
- 25) **May 9, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Senator Portman and Rep. Levin to Director of Office Management and Budget Michael Mulvaney to express their concern over OMB's proposal to cut all funding to the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) program.
- 26) **May 9, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Conyers and signed by all Democratic members of the Committee to Deputy AG Rosenstein and FBI Acting Director McCabe calling for the protection and preservation of all documents and other materials involving the Department's and FBI's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 federal election as well as the protection and preservation of all files related to Director Comey's termination.



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- 27) **May 10, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Congresswoman Kuster to Human Services Secretary Price expressing her concerns with the American Health Care Act and its impact on access to healthcare and substance misuse treatment in New Hampshire.
- 28) **May 10, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Lieu, Rice, and Plaskett to Deputy AG Rosenstein requesting the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.
- 29) **May 11, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 49 bipartisan members of Congress to Heather Menne of the Department of Human and Health Services demanding the Trump Administration reinstate LGBT demographic questions to the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants (NSOAAP).
- 30) **May 11, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Rep. Cicilline to DOJ IG Horowitz following up on an April 27, 2017 letter regarding the firings of Preet Bharara and Sally Yates.
- 31) **May 11, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 109 House Democrats to Interior Secretary Zinke urging him to continue to adhere to the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program to keep the Atlantic and Pacific OCS Regions off limits to any new oil and gas lease sales.
- 32) **May 12, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on the Judiciary Ranking Member Conyers and House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member Cummings to White House Counsel McGahn requesting copies of all recordings in possession of the White House regarding the alleged tapes of President Trump and former FBI Director Comey's conversations.



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- 33) **May 12, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on the Judiciary Ranking Member Conyers and House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member Cummings to Deputy AG Rosenstein raising “grave concerns” about Attorney General Sessions’ direct participation in President Trump’s decision to fire FBI Director James Comey despite the fact that he previously recused himself from any actions involving the investigations of the Trump and Clinton presidential campaigns.
- 34) **May 15, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Congressman Cicilline to President Trump, urging POTUS not to move forward on a White House proposal to cut funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy.
- 35) **May 15, 2017** – [Letter](#) from to Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to the Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regarding media reports revealing allegations of longtime sexual assault and crude hazing by CBP Officers at Newark Liberty International Airport.
- 36) **May 15, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 36 bipartisan members of Congress to President Trump proposing an opportunity to work together to reduce the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs.
- 37) **May 16, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 81 bipartisan members of Congress to President Trump expressing serious concerns about recent democratic backsliding and the erosion of human rights in Turkey, and urges President Trump to prioritize these critical issues during his meeting with President Erdoğan.
- 38) **May 16, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative Cummings and other members to Office of Management and Budget Director Mulvaney expressing concern about reported reductions to the Office of the National Drug Control Policy.



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- 39) **May 16, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative Cummings and Democratic Senators to Office of Government Ethics Director Schaub to request information about the ethics rules that apply to President Trump's Deputy White House Counsel and Designated Agency Ethics Official (DAEO), Stefan Passantino.
- 40) **May 17, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative Perlmutter and 45 members of the New Democrat Coalition to President Trump encouraging him to focus on tax reform and fixing our nation's infrastructure.
- 41) **May 17, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative Pascrell to Secretary of Defense James Mattis asking for the implementation of recommendations in a Government Accountability Office report issued yesterday entitled "Actions Needed to Ensure Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Are Considered in Misconduct Separations."
- 42) **May 17, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Senator Gillibrand and Representative Higgins to Department of Energy Secretary Perry to express concern over the transportation of liquid uranium through New York without the proper environmental impact studies.
- 43) **May 18, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 6 Democratic Representatives to President Trump urging him to appoint a reliable Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).
- 44) **May 18, 2017** – [Letter](#) from a bipartisan group of 70 Representatives to EPA Administrator Pruitt concerning the recent dismissal of several members of the EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors.
- 45) **May 18, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative Norton to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson urging him to take immediate action to hold accountable Turkish officials who viciously attacked peaceful protestors gathered outside the Turkish Ambassador's residence in the District of Columbia.



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- 46) **May 18, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Chu, DeGette, Slaughter, DelBene, Lee, and Speier to Ivanka Trump requesting a meeting to discuss the importance of preserving access to affordable forms of contraception.
- 47) **May 18, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative O’Halloran to President Trump regarding his administration’s lack of transparency on ethics waivers issued to political appointees.
- 48) **May 18, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative Pallone to President Trump asking his administration to condemn the attacks by Turkish security forces on protesters at the Turkish embassy.
- 49) **May 18, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva to Interior Secretary Zinke opposing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposal to remove endangered species protections for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bears.
- 50) **May 18, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Pallone, Johnson, DeGette, Beyer, Tonko, and Bonamici to EPA Administrator Pruitt expressing concerns and raising questions about the recent dismissal of nine members of the EPA’s Board of Scientific Counselors.
- 51) **May 19, 2017** – [Letter](#) from a bipartisan group of 63 Representatives to the 25th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Paul Zukunft calling on the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to ban “Live Tissue Training” in its medical training.
- 52) **May 19, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 24 Democratic Representatives to US Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue urging him not to undermine the USDA’s Rural Development program.



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- 53) **May 19, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative Kind to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue requesting USDA expedite the damage assessment process for the counties across western and central Wisconsin that experienced damage from severe weather.
- 54) **May 19, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 29 Democratic Representatives to Secretary of State Tillerson urging Rex him to arrest, prosecute, and jail the members of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s security detail who were caught on video brutally attacking protesters outside the Turkish Ambassador’s residence in Washington, D.C. last week.
- 55) **May 19, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Rep. Cicilline to DOJ IG Horowitz regarding the recusal of AG Sessions in the FBI Director Comey Firing investigation.
- 56) **May 19, 2017** – [Letter](#) from the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation to President Trump expressing concern over reports of cuts to the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the effects of those cuts on the opioid crisis in their state.
- 57) **May 19, 2017** – [Letter](#) from the Maine Congressional Delegation to OMB Director Mulvaney and VA Secretary Shulkin urging the Administration to authorize funding for delayed VA medical leases.
- 58) **May 22, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative DeLauro to Labor Department Secretary Acosta calling him to investigate the garment industry for violations.
- 59) **May 22, 2017** – [Letter](#) from the House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member Engel to Secretary of State Tillerson urging him to prioritize human rights in US relations with Vietnam.
- 60) **May 23, 2017** – [Letter](#) from forty-five Representatives to Energy Secretary Perry pressing him to immediately release funds currently withheld to previously approved projects at the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E).



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- 61) **May 23, 2017** – [Letter](#) Representative Cleaver to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein requesting him to appoint an independent investigator to examine allegations of President Trump’s ties to Russia.
- 62) **May 23, 2017** – [Letter](#) led by Representatives Conyers, Lee, and McGovern, and signed by 61 other Democratic Representatives to President Donald Trump to urge him to instead adhere to the diplomatic approach recently articulated by his Secretary of State Tillerson in dealing with North Korea.
- 63) **May 23, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 55 Democratic Representatives to DHS Secretary Kelly to reject the appointment of Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke as assistant secretary in the Office of Partnership and Engagement at the Department of Homeland Security.
- 64) **May 23, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 9 Democratic Representatives to Postmaster General Megan Brennan to establish a semi-postal stamp that would honor fallen law enforcement officers and direct the stamp’s proceeds toward a program benefiting their families.
- 65) **May 23, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Senator Gillibrand and 4 Democratic Representatives to Administrator Pruitt calling on him to incorporate data provided to the EPA as part of its Second Five-Year Review showing the continued presence of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminants in the Hudson River.
- 66) **May 23, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Courtney and Larson to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin asking for tax relief for homeowners who have been effected by crumbling foundations in Connecticut.



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- 67) **May 23, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Committee on Financial Services Ranking Member Waters, and other Committee democrats to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin requesting that the Department’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) provide any records to the Committee that detail President Trump’s financial ties to Russia, as well as those of his family members and associates.
  
- 68) **May 24, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representative Meeks to chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission Jay Clayton urging him to complete the Commission’s work on improving corporate board diversity disclosures.
  
- 69) **May 24, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 195 House Democrats to President Trump reminding him that millions of working families around the nation are relying on him to continue paying the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments.
  
- 70) **May 24, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives O’Halloran, Lynch and 58 other Members to Office of Management and Budget Director Mulvaney expressing concern over Director Mulvaney’s rejection of the Office of Government Ethics’ request for copies of ethics waivers.
  
- 71) **May 25, 2017** – [Letter](#) from 40 House Democrats to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kelly urging him to conduct an investigation into claims that numerous individuals fleeing violence and persecution have been denied the opportunity to apply for asylum or other forms of protection along the US-Mexico border.
  
- 72) **May 25, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva to Interior Secretary Zinke asking for information on who censored a U.S. Geological Survey press release on newly published climate science.



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- 73) **May 25, 2017** – [Letter](#) led by House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva, and signed by 85 House Democrats, to Interior Secretary Zinke highlighting Congress’ long-established legal authority over national monuments and other federally protected sites.
- 74) **May 26, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Matsui Connolly and Tonko to President Trump urging the President to remain in the Paris Climate Agreement.
- 75) **May 26, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Rosen and O’Halloran to President Trump expressing their concern over the impact the President’s budget’s cuts to Medicaid will have on veterans.
- 76) **May 30, 2017** – [Letter](#) from Representatives Maloney and Beyer to SEC Chairman Clayton asking that he consider the former chairman’s review of the SEC’s proxy statement disclosure rules.
- 77) **May 30, 2017** – [Letter](#) from members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation to Transportation Secretary Chao urging the DOT to continue advancing CIG Projects through the Federal Transit Administration’s New Starts pipeline.
- 78) **May 30, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member Cummings to NSA/CSS Director Rogers requesting “all documents, communications, memoranda, notes, and recordings” relating to their conversations with President Trump relating to the ongoing counterintelligence, criminal, or congressional investigations involving Russia, the 2016 presidential election, or any individuals affiliated with the President’s campaign.



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- 79) **May 30, 2017** – [Letter](#) from House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member Cummings to Director of National Intelligence Coats requesting “all documents, communications, memoranda, notes, and recordings” relating to their conversations with President Donald Trump relating to the ongoing counterintelligence, criminal, or congressional investigations involving Russia, the 2016 presidential election, or any individuals affiliated with the President’s campaign.

*\*These letters were unanswered as of June 21, 2017. The audit is designed to offer a snapshot of unanswered letters. Some letters may have been responded to since the conclusion of the audit.*