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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

June 28, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

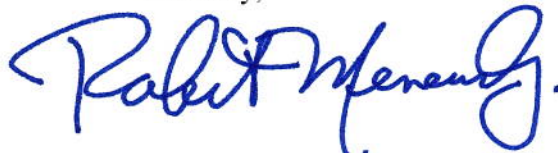
I write to ensure that Congress and the American people have a credible understanding of what transpires during all of your interactions with President Putin at the G20 Summit in Osaka. The lack of transparency surrounding your prior encounters with President Putin—in contrast to meetings with other foreign leaders—have provided ample reason to question whether you are being forthcoming with the public. To put these concerns to rest, and to maintain a historical record, it is imperative that all steps are taken to create and preserve records that may provide insight into what you discussed or agreed to on behalf of the United States.

To that end, I call upon you to preserve all records related to the meeting, including preparatory materials, notes, transcripts, readouts, memoranda, communications, and other relevant documents and data. This includes any records required to be preserved pursuant to the Federal Records Act and the Presidential Records Act, as well as records regarding the planning of the meeting; records that contain information regarding proposed topics or talking points; records that reflect what was actually discussed, such as notes from the note taker and the interpreter or transcripts; and any records related to follow-up communications or topics from the summit. In undertaking this effort, I ask that you ensure all reasonable steps are taken to prevent any inadvertent destruction or deletion of records. I also request that the White House identify all individuals present for any interactions with President Putin.

While Presidents can and should have candid discussions with foreign leaders, official records from such discussions are necessary for executive agencies and members of Congress to understand what you have said or agreed to on behalf of the United States and to develop and implement effective foreign policy and national security strategies. Past reports regarding your attempts to conceal information about your conversations with Vladimir Putin, as well as the general secrecy around your interactions with him, undermine our national security and the transparency necessary for a democratic government like the United States.

I look forward to your prompt response following the G20 Summit.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
Ranking Member