

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham:

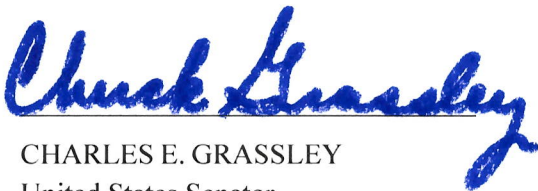
We write to request that you schedule for markup S.236, the Special Counsel Transparency Act, at the earliest opportunity. This commonsense, bipartisan legislation requires that any Special Counsel at the Department of Justice produce a report to Congress at the conclusion of an investigation or within 30 days of a Special Counsel's removal, transfer, or resignation. Such report would also be made available to the public, consistent with certain protections under law.

Congress and American taxpayers have a right to know how their government conducts its business and spends tax dollars. Special Counsel investigations are no different. The only way the American taxpayer—and this Committee, through oversight—can hold the government accountable, however, is through transparency. While there are some legitimate reasons for withholding certain information from the public, such as to respect statutes protecting national security or privacy, there should be as much transparency as possible regarding the release of a Special Counsel's report. Moreover, Congress should receive an unclassified version of any such report—with, if necessary, a classified annex—and be informed in writing of the reasons for the Attorney General withholding any specific information from the public.

The commonsense and bipartisan Special Counsel Transparency Act strikes the appropriate balance, ensuring that Congress and the American people have oversight of and insight into activities and findings of Special Counsel investigations under any administration.

Accordingly, we request that you schedule this important legislation for markup at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,



CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary