

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security

Dear Inspector General Cuffari:

On July 13, 2024, a gunman opened fire in an assassination attempt against former President Trump as he spoke to his supporters at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.¹ President Trump was almost killed and suffered injuries resulting from the shooting. One attendee was killed and two others were critically injured by the shooter.² The gunman made his way to the top of a building and set up his sniper rifle merely 400 feet or so from the stage where President Trump spoke.³ Reports and photos that day indicate that witnesses saw the gunman in advance and on the roof and attempted to warn law enforcement officers of his position prior to him opening fire, but it's unclear when, if, or how these messages were communicated to Secret Service agents on duty.⁴ At this time, the lack of information from DHS, USSS, and the FBI is unacceptable. They owe Congress and the American people full and complete transparency on how this tragedy could possibly occur. Accordingly, I have written to the USSS for information concerning whether USSS policies and procedures were followed prior to, during, and after the assassination attempt against former President Trump, including how the USSS was or was not alerted to the gunman's position when multiple reports and videos provided that witnesses within the crowd attempted to alert local law enforcement of the gunman's location.

¹ Ellie Cook, *Donald Trump Shooting Raises Security Questions: 'Lapses'*, Newsweek (Jul. 14, 2024)

<https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-shooting-security-questions-secret-service-fbi-pennsylvania-1924899>.

² Sarah Rumpf-Whitten, Brooke Singman, and Lucas Y. Tomlinson, *Assassination attempt on Trump at Pennsylvania rally leaves 2 hurt, 2 dead, including shooter*, Fox News (Jul. 13, 2024) <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/assassination-attempt-trump-pennsylvania-rally-2-hurt-2-dead-including-shooter>.

³ Katherine Donlevy, *Witnesses frantically tried to warn police of rifle-carrying sniper on roof before Trump assassination attempt*, New York Post (Jul. 13, 2024) <https://nypost.com/2024/07/13/us-news/witnesses-frantically-tried-to-warn-police-of-rifle-carrying-sniper-on-roof-before-trump-assassination-attempt/>.

⁴ *Id.* Associated Press. *AP PHOTOS: Shooting at Trump rally in Pennsylvania*, Updated July 14, 2024.

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-rally-shooting-photo-gallery-561478b3f90c950c741eeaa24c6dc159>; Isabel Keane, New York Post, *Horrible Video Shows Would-be Assassin Open Fire on Former President Trump from Rooftop*, (July. 14, 2024). <https://nypost.com/2024/07/14/us-news/horrifying-video-shows-would-be-assassin-open-fire-on-former-president-trump-from-rooftop/>; New York Post, *Witness Describes Desperately Trying to Warn Police that Gunman was on Roof at Trump Rally*, (Jul. 14, 2024) <https://nypost.com/video/witness-describes-desperately-trying-to-warn-police-that-gunman-was-on-roof-at-trump-rally/>.

This was a monumental security failure. Former President Trump came within a centimeter of death because a gunman was able to get within hundreds of feet and in direct line of fire from where he spoke to his supporters. Although investigations are ongoing, it's clear that a full and complete review must be done of this catastrophic security failure. Since the weekend, my office has made clear to yours that a review must be done.

Accordingly, I request that you begin that review immediately. In addition, given the historic importance that this review be done without restrictions and obstacles, and so that Congress is made aware of the same, has your office in the past faced any information access restrictions from DHS proper and/or its component agencies in the course of your reviews? I request an answer to my questions no later than July 19, 2024.

Thank you for your prompt review and response. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Randolph and Silvia Symber on my Committee staff at (202) 224-0642.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget