

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 25, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

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 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 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.

A full and complete review must be done of this catastrophic security failure. Accordingly, I request that you begin a review as soon as possible that evaluates the topics outlined below. I ask that the review be completed in a way that will result in recommendations to ensure this catastrophic failure never happens again.

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>.

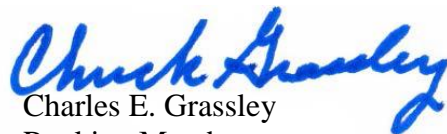
³ Katherine Donlevy, *Witnesses frantically tried to warn police of rifle-carrying sniper on roof before Trump assassination attempt*, New York Post (Jul. 13, 2024) <https://nypost.com/2024/07/13/us-news/witnesses-frantically-tried-to-warn-police-of-rifle-carrying-sniper-on-roof-before-trump-assassination-attempt/>.

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/>.

- The policies, procedures, and mechanisms Secret Service has in place to coordinate with federal, state, and local partners when securing sites in advance of, during, and after protectee visits, campaign visits, or other stops not designated a National Special Security Event.
- The Secret Service delegating their protection duty to non-Secret Service personnel.
- The communications capabilities and coordination between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies as a matter of practice and, specifically, at the July 13, 2024, rally.
- The steps Secret Service took to coordinate with federal, state, and local entities, such as the FBI and DHS Homeland Security Investigations, in advance of the July 13, 2024, rally to ensure effective security coordination.
 - Please report the number of personnel, and their roles, from all federal and state agencies that were present during the advance and at the July 13, 2024, rally.
- The technologies used to maintain operational awareness and coordination during protectee visits, campaign visits, or other stops not designated a National Special Security Event.
 - The use of Unmanned Aerial Systems and counter Unmanned Aerial Systems as a matter of practice.
 - Technologies available, proposed, and used by federal and state law enforcement entities.
 - Unmanned Aerial Systems used in advance of and during the July 13, 2024, rally.

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