

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

June 29, 2026

VIA EMAIL

The Reverend Francis J. Mann
Diocese of Brooklyn
310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Dear Reverend Mann:

Recent reporting indicates that leadership at the Department of Justice may have intervened to kill an investigation into improper payments to you, made by you or on behalf of David Gentile, related to President Trump's commutation of Mr. Gentile's seven-year sentence for his role in a \$1.6 billion scheme that defrauded thousands of everyday investors.¹ I write to request information regarding potential misconduct relating to the commutation of Mr. Gentile's sentence.

On November 26, President Trump commuted Mr. Gentile's sentence after he had served just twelve days. In that short time in prison, he reportedly told other inmates that he had made payments of \$2.5 million or more to facilitate a commutation.² You are reported to have leveraged your relationship with and access to President Trump to lobby for a grant of clemency for Mr. Gentile.

The circumstances surrounding the commutation of Mr. Gentile's sentence were sufficiently suspicious that federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York opened an investigation, reportedly focused on improper payments made to secure the commutation that may have exceeded \$2.5 million.³ That investigation was reportedly closed after a senior official from the Department of Justice, Associate Deputy Attorney General Aakash Singh, expressed concern regarding the investigation to U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Joseph Nocella Jr.⁴

By commuting Mr. Gentile's sentence, President Trump deprived his victims of over \$15.5 million in restitution and ensured you served only twelve days of your seven-year sentence⁵ —

¹ Kenneth P. Vogel, Nicole Hong & William K. Rashbaum, *Trump Administration Shuttered a Criminal Probe Into Fraudster's Clemency*, N.Y. TIMES (June 21, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/21/us/politics/trump-fraudster-priest-investigation-brooklyn.html>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Restitution Motion of the United States, *United States v. Gentile*, No. 21-cr-00054 (E.D.N.Y. Jun. 10, 2025), ECF No. 610, <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=0000019a-e5e8-da2c-af9f-ffe9ff0f0000>; *see also* Santul Nerkar & Kenneth P. Vogel, *Fraudster's Victims Are Seething After Trump Commuted His Sentence*, N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 12, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/12/nyregion/david-gentile-trump-commutation.html>.

one of the most extreme examples of how the President's disregard for the safeguards that historically govern the pardon process has resulted in great harm to victims, through both the loss of financial restitution and the extraordinary disrespect of seeing the president champion unrepentant criminals.

Over 1,000 of your victims provided impact statements during Mr. Gentile's sentencing.⁶ Those victims, many of them working-class retirees, describe entrusting you with the hard-earned savings, only to be "betrayed" in a scheme in which he lined his own pockets at their expense.⁷ Many were forced to delay their retirements, sell personal belongings, or take on credit card debt in order to make ends meet in the wake of his fraud scheme.⁸ Particularly insulting is the fact that Mr. Gentile repeatedly took actions that have delayed restitution for his victims.⁹ And now, Mr. Gentile's commutation has wiped out his obligation to provide restitution to his victims.

Congress and the American people deserve full and timely details of the criteria and process by which the President has issued clemency actions since the beginning of his second term. Pursuant to Articles I and V of the Constitution, Senate Resolution 94 (119th Cong.), and PSI Rule 1, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations has opened a preliminary inquiry to examine the President's abuse of the pardon power. To assist the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations in its inquiry, please preserve all documents, records,¹⁰ and communications¹¹ related to the commutation of your sentence, and please provide detailed responses to the following requests by July 10, 2026.

1. All communications between you and David Gentile regarding a grant of clemency for Mr. Gentile from President Trump.
2. Any contract or other agreement between you and David Gentile regarding your efforts to obtain a grant of clemency for Mr. Gentile from President Trump.
3. All communications between you and any other individuals or firms regarding efforts to obtain a grant of clemency for Mr. Gentile from President Trump.
4. All communications between you and the White House regarding a grant of clemency for Mr. Gentile.

⁶ Sentencing Memorandum of the United States at 12, *United States v. Gentile*, No. 21-cr-00054 (E.D.N.Y. Feb. 21, 2025), ECF No. 539, <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/4ec42e53e412e0e3/c324f8f4-full.pdf>.

⁷ *Id.* at 16.

⁸ *Id.* at 10-16.

⁹ *Id.* at 13.

¹⁰ For purposes of this request, "records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (emails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), direct messages, chats, calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

¹¹ For purposes of this request, "communications" include any records, as defined above, transmitted in any way between two or more individuals or entities.

5. All communications between you and the Department of Justice regarding a grant of clemency for Mr. Gentile.
6. All communications between you and any attorneys at the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York regarding their investigation into potential misconduct around the commutation of Mr. Gentile's sentence.

Please contact the Subcommittee should you have any questions about responding to these requests. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations