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

June 9, 2026

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Paul:

I write to express my concern and disappointment with your repeated violations of longstanding Senate and Committee rules and precedents regarding bipartisanship and minority rights of access to information. Despite your assurances otherwise, since becoming Chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC), you have repeatedly engaged in conduct that undermines the credibility of your own investigations and oversight efforts and ultimately harms this Committee's ability to serve as an effective check on executive branch abuses.

Most recently, you have failed to give the Committee minority notice and opportunity to participate in your planned transcribed interview of Dr. Anthony Fauci later this month and have worked instead to prevent any efforts to ensure a fair and legitimate oversight process. The minority sought to participate only after independently learning that you were in the process of scheduling this interview. However, the majority informed both the minority and counsel for Dr. Fauci that you would be conducting a majority-only transcribed interview and minority staff would not be allowed to participate. Excluding the Committee minority from a transcribed interview is contrary to HSGAC's long history of bipartisan investigations and comity – and to my knowledge, is completely unprecedented.

This attempt to operate unilaterally and without transparency is especially troubling given that when I was Chairman of the Committee, you and I initiated a bipartisan investigation into risky life science research, including the origins of COVID-19.¹ Your September 9, 2025, letter to Dr. Fauci – sent without my knowledge and without inviting any consultation – purports to be a continuation of those efforts.² However, rather than attempting to work together to pursue areas

¹ Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee: *Peters and Paul Announce Bipartisan Biodefense and Life Science Research Investigation* (March 20, 2024) (www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/dems/peters-and-paul-announce-bipartisan-biodefense-and-life-science-research-investigation/).

² Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Majority: *Chairman Rand Paul Uncovers New Evidence of Fauci Deleting Official Records, Calls Him to Testify Before HSGAC* (Sept. 12, 2025) (www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/reps/chairman-rand-paul-uncovers-new-evidence-of-fauci-deleting-official-records-calls-him-to-testify-before-hsgac/).

of shared concern, you have directed your investigative efforts at Dr. Fauci in a manner that appears to be pursuing an outcome you have prejudged.³ As HSGAC Chairman, it is your right to use the Committee to pursue the investigative priorities of your choosing, even if other Members disagree with those choices. However, you cannot deny the minority access to Committee documents or the ability to meaningfully participate in Committee investigations.

The Committee rules explicitly require giving the minority notice and ability to participate in *depositions*; however, HSGAC Chairs of both parties have always afforded the Ranking Member the same opportunities for transcribed interviews.⁴ While you may contend that excluding the minority from a transcribed interview violates only the spirit and not the plain text of the rules – you have committed other clear and egregious violations of both HSGAC and Senate rules.

March 2026 Deposition and May 2026 Hearing – In March, you explicitly violated Committee rules by attempting to exclude minority Committee staff from a Committee deposition that occurred in a classified setting. The rules require the majority to notify the minority of the “time and place” for *any* deposition, and that the witness may be questioned “by a Committee Member or Members or staff.”⁵ After initially notifying minority Committee staff of the time and place the deposition was to be held, your staff then moved up the time of the deposition without notifying minority staff. Once minority staff learned of the changed time, your office then blocked minority staff from attending the deposition, declaring that only one minority staff member could attend the deposition and dictating who it could be. By virtue of your failure to consult with the minority and your subsequent refusal to amend your notice, you also failed to give the witness accurate notice of the Members and staff that would take the deposition, a clear violation of Senate and Committee rules.

Following this deposition, you convened a hearing on May 13, 2026 with the same witness. All Committee Members should have been able to review the witness’s deposition transcript prior to a public hearing. However, the deposition transcript had not been finalized or gone through agency classification review. Further, you offered only HSGAC’s *Republican Members* the opportunity to review the preliminary classified transcript prior to the hearing. You denied the same access to the Committee’s Democratic Members.

³ See, e.g., “[M]y one and only wish for Dr. Fauci this Christmas is that he can send this Christmas song [*Christmas in Prison*] to someone he loves very soon,” Post on X from @RandPaul (Dec. 23, 2023), <https://x.com/RandPaul/status/1738561868053070331?s=20>; “Anthony Fauci lied to Congress and the bottom line is he needs to be in prison,” Post on X from @SenRandPaul, (Jan. 23, 2024), <https://x.com/SenRandPaul/status/1749876151118594102?s=20>; “On Anthony Fauci’s case, we think lying to Congress is one felony . . . There was a vast both organized and unorganized conspiracy to cover up the fact that the US government was funding the research that led to the pandemic,” New York Post, “*Pressure on DOJ to Prosecute Anthony Fauci grows after adviser indicted – with days left to charge COVID ‘lies’*” (Apr. 28, 2026), nypost.com/2026/04/28/us-news/pressure-on-doj-to-prosecute-anthony-fauci-grows-after-adviser-indicted-with-days-left-to-charge-covid-lies/.

⁴ See, e.g., Transcribed Interviews of 17 U.S. Secret Service Officials (Aug. – Dec. 2024) (transcripts available [here](#) and [here](#)); Transcribed Interviews of 11 current and former Administration officials (July 2020 – Dec. 2020) (transcripts available [here](#)).

⁵ Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Rule 5(K).

Access to Committee Records – Senate Rules explicitly guarantee all Committee Members and staff access to Committee records.⁶ You and your staff have refused or ignored repeated requests to ensure that all documents received in response to your subpoenas or letters are made available to the minority. On three recent occasions my staff has learned from outside parties about the existence of tens of thousands of pages of Committee records. In these instances, the Committee majority had received multiple productions over the course of several months in response to letters or subpoenas that you issued. In addition to violating Senate rules, this conduct directly contradicts commitments you made regarding transparency and cooperation at the start of this Congress.

One of your first official actions when you became HSGAC Chairman in January 2025 was to change the Committee rules to erode the rights of the minority. You gave yourself unilateral subpoena power, removing the ability of the Ranking Member to object to a subpoena's issuance and require a full Committee vote, a mechanism that has helped to promote bipartisan oversight and avoid the kind of partisan efforts that erode the credibility of congressional oversight that we are now seeing from this Committee.⁷ At the time I voiced concern that the change would disempower every Member of the Committee and deprive Members of transparency into Committee oversight and investigative activities. I acceded to the change only after you made both public and private assurances to support bipartisan oversight efforts and ensure all Members would have access to Committee documents. At the business meeting adopting the new rules, you assured us: "any information that is gathered from the executive branch, we are going to have a way that you can log on to it. We are going to put it on a server. You don't have to come and ask me to print it out or anything. . . It's government records, everybody, Republican, Democrat . . . you or your staff and your office is going to be able to log onto this, where it is going to be easier access."⁸ Those statements have proven to be untrue.

Unfortunately, past attempts to address concerns with you and your staff in private regarding these rules violations and disregard for precedent have not resulted in any changes. Not only does your conduct stand in direct contrast to how I and my staff treated you and your staff when you were in the minority, it risks lasting damage to this Committee's oversight work. Your refusal to abide by both the spirit and the letter of Committee and Senate rules undermines the legitimacy of current and future Committee investigations. I urge you to change course.

⁶ Rule XXVI.10(a) specifies that Members shall have access to all Committee records, and Rule XXVII.1 further states that "staff members appointed to assist minority members of committees...shall be accorded equitable treatment with respect to . . . accessibility of committee records."

⁷ Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Business Meeting*, 119th Con. (Jan. 16, 2025) (S. Hrg. 119-2).

⁸ Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Business Meeting*, 119th Con. (Jan. 16, 2025) (S. Hrg. 119-2).

This Committee has a long history of conducting comprehensive bipartisan investigations – including following Hurricane Katrina, the January 6th attacks on the U.S. Capitol, and the U.S. Secret Service failures in advance of the July 2024 attempted assassination of President Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania. I hope that you will recognize that bipartisanship results in more effective, meaningful oversight. As a first step toward that end, I ask for your commitment to the following:

- Providing the minority timely notice of and access to Committee documents, which include productions made in response to Chairman’s request letters and subpoenas;
- Providing the minority with timely notice and opportunity to participate in any depositions or transcribed interviews;
- Ensuring that the minority has all document productions received and records of any transcribed interviews conducted to date.

I hope we can find a constructive path forward.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

cc: Members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs