

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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judiciary.house.gov

April 21, 2026

The Honorable Kashyap Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Patel:

A damning and explosive report recently revealed that the men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are privately—and at times publicly—alarmed by your “episodes of excessive drinking and unexplained absences.”¹ There are numerous accounts that you consume alcohol to the point of illness, direct profanity-laced outbursts at support staff, and pass out drunk behind locked doors in episodes making you so unreachable that agents have had to fetch SWAT-level breaching equipment to awaken you.²

After repeatedly and inexplicably disappearing for long stretches of time only to reappear conspicuously inebriated, it is no surprise that your purported drinking habits and erratic schedule have had demonstrably disastrous effects on your performance of duties as FBI Director. Your staff’s inability to reach you has reportedly led to delays in time-sensitive decisions to advance investigations of terror cases, including apparently the issuance of FISA warrants.³ On the flip side, your inability to control your impulses has reportedly undermined high-stakes criminal investigations, including the manhunt for the mass shooter at Brown University and the search for the assassin of Charlie Kirk last year. During the course of both investigations, you shared and broadcast inaccurate information.⁴ These claims corroborate what the American people have seen for ourselves: you have shuttled boxes of alcohol onboard the FBI jet, downed “aperitivo” with foreign dignitaries, and chugged beers in the Team USA locker

¹ Sarah Fitzpatrick, *The FBI Director Is MIA*, THE ATLANTIC (Apr. 17, 2026), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/04/kash-patel-fbi-director-drinking-absences/686839/>.

² *Id.*; Surina Venkat, *Patel Ripped Into FBI Agents In Profanity-laced Online Meeting*: NYT, THE HILL (Sept. 12, 2025), <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5501771-patel-fbi-charlie-kirk-investigation/>.

³ Sarah Fitzpatrick, *The FBI Director Is MIA*, THE ATLANTIC (Apr. 17, 2026), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/04/kash-patel-fbi-director-drinking-absences/686839/>; Jesse R. Binnall (@jbinnall), X (Apr. 17, 2026), <https://x.com/jbinnall/status/2045287437325254768/photo/1>.

⁴ Sarah Fitzpatrick, *The FBI Director Is MIA*, THE ATLANTIC (Apr. 17, 2026), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/04/kash-patel-fbi-director-drinking-absences/686839/>.

room at the Olympics in Italy in a now notorious viral video.⁵ These glimpses of your relationship to alcohol would be alarming to see in an FBI agent; for us to see them in the FBI Director himself is shocking and indicative of a public emergency.

As you may be aware, federal law prevents employees in competitive civil service jobs from “habitually us[ing] intoxicating beverages to excess.”⁶ The Department of Justice Ethics Handbook for On- and Off-Duty Conduct applies that rule to *all* Department employees, including the FBI Director.⁷

We understand that you have sued the journalists who have reported on the widespread concerns about your job performance and alcohol abuse, demanding a whopping \$250 million in damages, plus disgorgement of income.⁸ However, the American people deserve to hear the facts directly from you now—not your lawyers weeks or months from now—to determine for ourselves whether your continued leadership of the FBI in fact constitutes a severe “national security vulnerability.”⁹

For the sake of our own security, we need to know, for example, “how many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking,” “how often during the last year have you failed to do what was normally expected from you because of drinking,” “how often during the last year have you needed a first drink in the morning to get yourself going after a heavy drinking session,” and “how often during the last year have you been unable to remember what happened the night before because you had been drinking?”¹⁰

Given the urgency and gravity of the risks to our nation and our people, we request that you fill out and submit to Congress the results of the attached Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)—a 10-question screening tool considered the “gold standard” in the U.S. and around the world for assessing harmful patterns of alcohol consumption and routinely used by individuals to help identify hazardous drinking behaviors—along with a sworn statement

⁵ Glenn Thrush, *Kash Patel’s Olympics Schedule Left Plenty of Time for Leisure*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 24, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/24/us/politics/kash-patel-fbi-olympics-milan.html>; Kyle Seraphin (@KyleSeraphin), X (July 15, 2025), <https://x.com/KyleSeraphin/status/1945227737926455543>.

⁶ 5 U.S.C. § 7352 (Excessive and habitual use of intoxicants).

⁷ U.S. DEP’T OF JUSTICE, *Ethics Handbook for On and Off-Duty Conduct*, <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/ethics/ethics-handbook> (last accessed on Apr. 21, 2026).

⁸ Complaint, *Kashyap P. Patel v. The Atlantic Monthly Group, LLC*, 1:26-cv-1329 (D.D.C. filed Apr. 20, 2026). Indeed, no complaint better illustrates our need for a federal anti-SLAPP statute than one filed by the FBI Director against journalists who dared to publish the accounts of two dozen people with knowledge of his misconduct. Federal law does not presently give defendants a quick way of dismissing, on free speech grounds, meritless lawsuits filed by powerful people to silence critics.

⁹ Sarah Fitzpatrick, *The FBI Director Is MIA*, THE ATLANTIC (Apr. 17, 2026), <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/2026/04/kash-patel-fbi-director-drinking-absences/686839/>.

¹⁰ NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, *Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test*, available at <https://nida.nih.gov/sites/default/files/files/AUDIT.pdf>.

attesting that your answers are true under the penalty of perjury.¹¹ Please provide the following to the Committee no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 28, 2026:

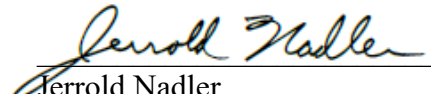
1. The attached AUDIT form completed in its entirety by you;
2. A sworn statement attesting to the accuracy of your answers to the AUDIT under penalty of law;
3. All security clearance questionnaires completed by you and the notes of any interviews of you conducted in the process of seeking, transferring, or reinvestigating your security clearances; and
4. All internal notes and communications regarding the AUDIT form and your security clearance.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.


Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member



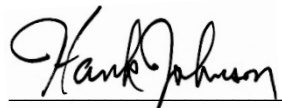
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



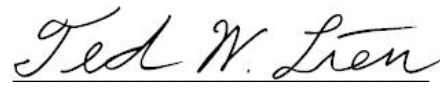
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



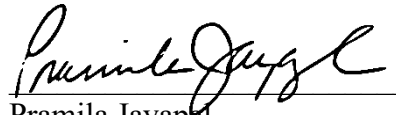
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress




Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

¹¹ *Id.* As a reminder, all submissions to the House Committee on the Judiciary are subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (false statements). Given you would never violate federal law, you should therefore have no problem submitting these answers under the penalty of perjury as well (18 U.S.C. § 1621).



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress




Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



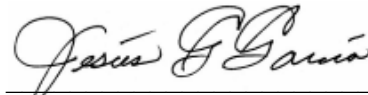
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



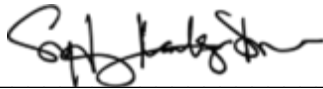
Deborah Ross
Member of Congress



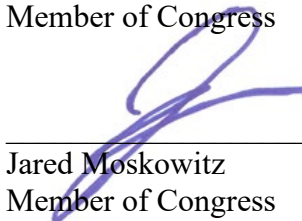
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

Mr. William Blier, Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General

Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) Questionnaire

Please circle the answer that is correct for you

1. **How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?**
 - a. Never
 - b. Monthly or less
 - c. 2-4 times a month
 - d. 2-3 times a week
 - e. 4 or more times a week
2. **How many standard drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when drinking?**
 - a. 1 or 2
 - b. 3 or 4
 - c. 5 or 6
 - d. 7 to 9
 - e. 10 or more
3. **How often do you have six or more drinks on one occasion?**
 - a. Never
 - b. Less than monthly
 - c. Monthly
 - d. Weekly
 - e. Daily or almost daily
4. **During the past year, how often have you found that you were not able to stop drinking once you had started?**
 - a. Never
 - b. Less than monthly
 - c. Monthly
 - d. Weekly
 - e. Daily or almost daily
5. **During the past year, how often have you failed to do what was normally expected of you because of drinking?**
 - a. Never
 - b. Less than monthly
 - c. Monthly
 - d. Weekly
 - e. Daily or almost daily
6. **During the past year, how often have you needed a drink in the morning to get yourself going after a heavy drinking session?**
 - a. Never
 - b. Less than monthly
 - c. Monthly
 - d. Weekly
 - e. Daily or almost daily
7. **During the past year, how often have you had a feeling of guilt or remorse after drinking?**
 - a. Never
 - b. Less than monthly
 - c. Monthly
 - d. Weekly
 - e. Daily or almost daily
8. **During the past year, have you been unable to remember what happened the night before because you had been drinking?**
 - a. Never
 - b. Less than monthly
 - c. Monthly
 - d. Weekly
 - e. Daily or almost daily
9. **Have you or someone else been injured as a result of your drinking?**
 - a. No
 - b. Yes, but not in the past year
 - c. Yes, during the past year
10. **Has a relative or friend, doctor or other health worker been concerned about your drinking or suggested you cut down?**
 - a. No
 - b. Yes, but not in the past year
 - c. Yes, during the past year