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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
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November 19, 2026

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

Dear Director Patel:

As surely you know, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is legally required to preserve all records related to its official functions, policies, decisions, and procedures, and to safeguard such records against destruction.[1] This mandate extends to communications made through non-government messaging applications, including but not limited to: Discord, Facebook Messenger, Instagram Direct Messages, LinkedIn, Signal, Snapchat, Telegram, Truth Social, WeChat, WhatsApp, and X (formerly Twitter).[2]

Messages sent through such services, particularly when configured with automatic message-deletion features commonly used on these platforms, will not be captured by the same routine records-management and preservation systems used for other government records such as email or formal memoranda. Consequently, official government communications end up being deleted, concealed, or otherwise rendered unavailable for subsequent review.

There is significant evidence that Trump Administration officials have engaged in the widespread destruction, mutilation, and concealment of government records, seemingly with the express purpose of circumventing federal record preservation laws. This attempt to evade transparency extends to the highest levels of federal agencies, including top-ranking law enforcement officials.

By way of example, attached as *Exhibit A* is a Signal chat between Samuel Ramer, General Counsel of the FBI, and Drew Lynch, an associate of Donald Trump Jr., concerning a potential or ongoing investigation involving an individual wanted by federal authorities on health care fraud and related charges. As reflected in the attached chat, the participants appear to have deliberately configured the conversation to automatically delete messages after one week. The FBI's top lawyer should be ensuring that all 35,000 FBI employees are preserving government

[1] 44 U.S.C. §§ 3101–3107.

[2] *See*, AC 23.2025, *Recordkeeping Requirements for Records Created on Third-Party Messaging Applications*, NAT'L ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMIN. (May 2, 2025), https://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/memos/ac-23-2025.

and law enforcement records; instead, he has conducted official business on a platform specifically configured to erase communications. This incident, just one of many that have already been reported to our Committee, raises significant concerns that Department of Justice and FBI officials are openly flouting federal law when it comes to the preservation of official government records.

It is a felony to unlawfully conceal, remove, alter, or destroy federal records, as Mr. Ramer appears to have done here.[3] As FBI Director, it is your responsibility to ensure that all employees and officials within your agency understand and comply with their legal obligations to take appropriate measures to collect, retain, and preserve all documents, communications, and other records in accordance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

Accordingly, pursuant to the Committee's jurisdiction over federal law enforcement and oversight authority, I respectfully instruct the Bureau to preserve all documents, records, communications, and electronically stored information, particularly such records created on non-government messaging applications. Moreover, I direct the Bureau to open an inquiry to identify records under its purview that have been improperly deleted from non-government applications and, pursuant to 44 U.S.C. § 3106, initiate immediate action to recover these records, including any available backups or associated metadata. This directive includes all records maintained on both government and personal devices used for official business and should encompass all relevant records requested by the Chair or Ranking Member of the House Committee on the Judiciary from January 20, 2025, to date.

Please respond no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 3, 2026, certifying the Bureau's compliance with federal law and this document preservation request. In your response, please provide a description of the specific actions taken to ensure that no employee or official under your purview has used, or will use, messaging applications to evade federal law.

Very truly yours,

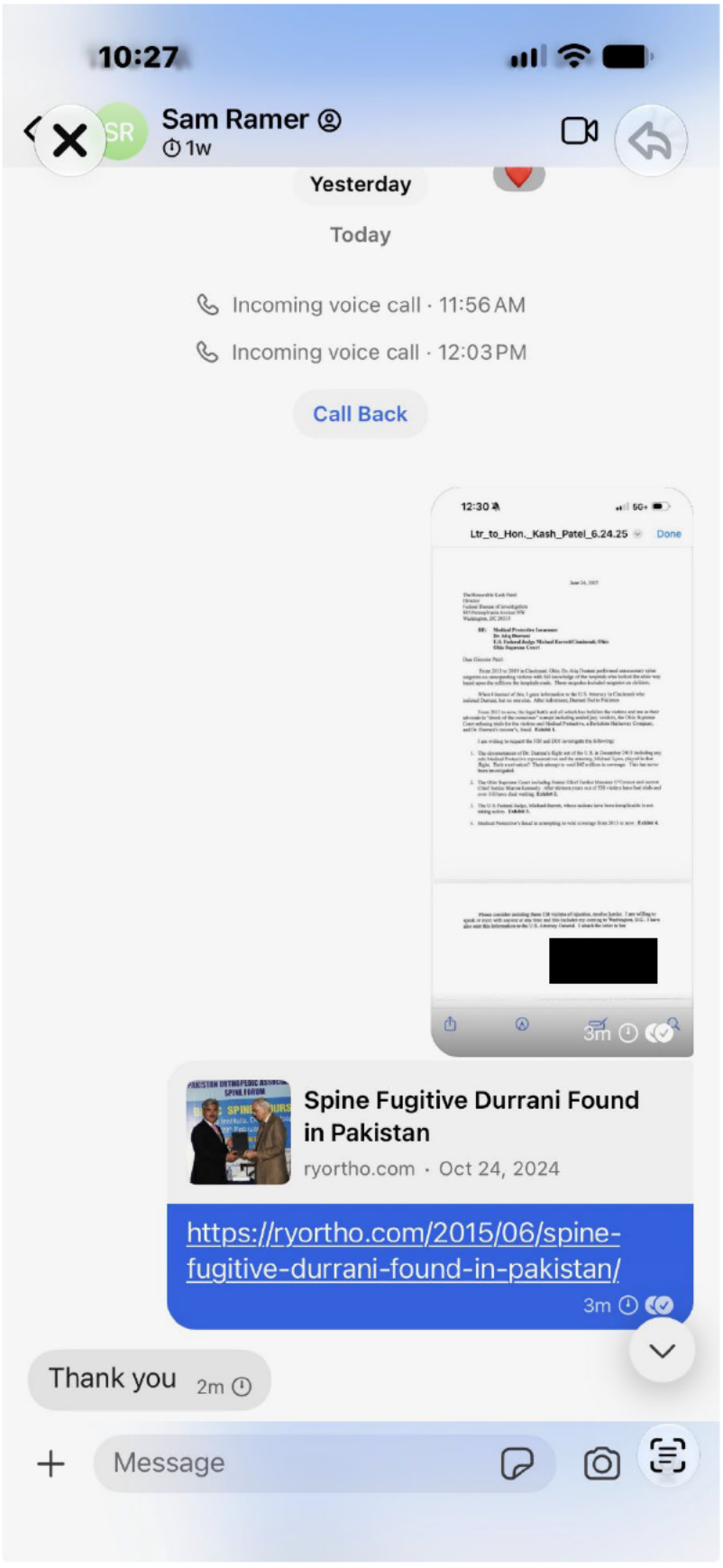
Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

[3] *See, e.g.*, 18 U.S.C. § 2071*; see also* 18 U.S.C. § 1512.

EXHIBIT A


10:27
Sam Ramer
1w
Yesterday
Today
Incoming voice call · 11:56 AM
Incoming voice call · 12:03 PM
Call Back
12:30
Ltr_to_Hon._Kash_Patel_6.24.25
Done
3m
Spine Fugitive Durrani Found in Pakistan
ryortho.com · Oct 24, 2024
https://ryortho.com/2015/06/spine-fugitive-durrani-found-in-pakistan/
3m
Thank you 2m
Message