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October 26, 2015

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz:

I am writing to request an investigation and an explanation for an apparent leak of sensitive video footage produced to the Oversight Committee by David Daleiden, the head of the Center for Medical Progress, the extreme anti-abortion group that waged a likely illegal three-year undercover campaign to entrap Planned Parenthood.

In September, you issued a subpoena to Mr. Daleiden for “all unedited video footage” recorded by Mr. Daleiden and his associates in the course of their undercover campaign.¹ You described the subpoena as “a demand for transparency” that was necessary to carry out “Congress’ Constitutional duty and right to conduct effective oversight.”²

On October 14, you announced that you had received all of the video footage demanded by your subpoena.³ However, you insisted on exercising complete and exclusive control over the video footage. You refused to provide Democratic Members or staff with a copy of the videos, contradicting the explicit terms of your subpoena.⁴ You justified withholding the videos from Democrats as necessary to “ensure the safety and security of all individuals recorded.”⁵

It now appears that the videos Mr. Daleiden produced to you have been leaked to GotNews.com, an online media outlet that posted the leaked footage on its website.⁶ GotNews.com explained that it obtained “all of the Planned Parenthood tapes.”⁷ GotNews.com

¹ Subpoena from Chairman Jason Chaffetz, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to David Daleiden, Executive Director, Center for Medical Progress (Sept. 15, 2015).

² Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Chairman Issues Subpoena for Unedited Planned Parenthood Videos* (Sept. 15, 2015).

³ Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Chaffetz Statement on Planned Parenthood Video Footage* (Oct. 14, 2015).

⁴ Subpoena from Chairman Jason Chaffetz, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to David Daleiden, Executive Director, Center for Medical Progress (Sept. 15, 2015) (requiring that “[t]wo sets of documents shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff”).

⁵ Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Chaffetz Statement on Planned Parenthood Video Footage* (Oct. 14, 2015).

⁶ GotNews.com, Home Page (online at <http://gotnews.com/>); *Why We Published the Planned Parenthood Videos*, GotNews.com (Oct. 23, 2015) (online at <http://gotnews.com/why-we-published-the-planned-parenthood-abortion-videos/>).

⁷ *Breaking: Here are all the Unreleased Planned Parenthood Tapes*, GotNews.com (Oct. 22, 2015) (online at <http://gotnews.com/breaking-here-are-all-the-unreleased-planned-parenthood-tapes/>).

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz

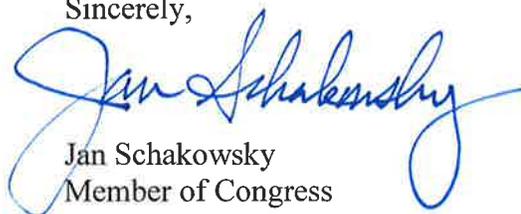
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founder Charles C. Johnson also stated that he received the videos from a “high-ranking congressional staffer ‘who felt morally compelled to have them released.’”⁸

I request that you conduct an immediate investigation and provide an explanation for how this video footage could have been leaked. Although it may be possible that other parties could have leaked these videos, given the explicit attribution to a senior congressional staffer in this case, I am sure you understand the critical importance of thoroughly investigating whether and how this could have occurred.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

cc. The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member

⁸ ‘Confidential’ Planned Parenthood Video Leaked, Politico (Oct. 22, 2015) (online at www.politico.com/story/2015/10/planned-parenthood-video-leak-215094).