

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 2024

Mr. Boris Epshteyn  
Advisor, Trump-Vance Transition  
Mar-a-Lago Club  
1100 South Ocean Boulevard  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear Mr. Epshteyn,

We are writing to request information concerning troubling allegations of potential quid-pro-quo agreements within President-elect Trump's transition team. These reports raise pressing concerns about potential payments made in exchange for preferential treatment in the President-elect's cabinet-level nominations.

Allegations of this nature require immediate inquiry by the Senate. The Senate has a constitutional duty to provide advice and consent on the President-elect's intended nominees, and fulfilling these duties requires full and robust information to ensure that the transition process has not been influenced by inappropriate payments for political favors.

According to reports, in several instances you requested personal payment in exchange for political favors and promoting certain candidates for nomination to cabinet-level positions.<sup>1</sup> For example, you are alleged to have sought payments totaling \$30,000-\$40,000 a month from Scott Bessent, the presumptive nominee for Secretary of the Treasury, to promote Mr. Bessent to President-elect Trump as a potential nominee.<sup>2</sup>

In addition, former Missouri Governor Eric Greitens reportedly stated that you implied that Mr. Greitens should send payments to you in exchange for your advocating to President-elect Trump that Mr. Greitens be appointed Secretary of the U.S. Navy.<sup>3</sup>

These alleged payments for political services do not appear to be isolated events. Reports also indicate you were paid for "consultation" from politicians seeking office, including Don Bolduc, a primary election candidate for U.S. Senate in New Hampshire, who reportedly paid you \$100,000 in 2022 in order for you to urge Mr. Trump to refrain from publicly endorsing another candidate.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Maggie Haberman and Jonathon Swift, *Top Trump Aide Accused of Asking for Money to 'Promote' Potential Appointees*, New York Times (Nov. 25, 2024) [Top Trump Aide Accused of Asking for Money to 'Promote' Potential Appointees - The New York Times](#).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Katherine Faulders and Jonathon Karl, *Trump has advisers conduct internal probe of alleged impropriety by legal advisor Boris Epshteyn*, ABC News (Nov. 25, 2024) [Trump has advisers conduct internal probe of alleged impropriety by legal advisor Boris Epshteyn: Sources - ABC News](#).

<sup>4</sup> Daniel Klaidman and Graham Kates, *Trump transition aide Boris Epshteyn sparking internal strife over appointments*, CBS News (Nov. 25, 2024) [Trump transition aide Boris Epshteyn sparking internal strife over appointments - CBS News](#).

In another instance, Carl Paladino, a Republican who ran to represent New York's 23rd Congressional District in 2022, reportedly claims to have paid you \$20,000 a month in order for you to secure Mr. Trump's endorsement in that campaign.<sup>5</sup>

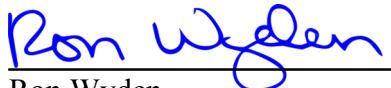
This pattern of allegations, which was reportedly the subject of an internal investigation by the Trump transition team, raises serious concerns about the integrity of the transition process and whether and to what extent it has been influenced by inappropriate payments for political favors.

In light of these allegations, we ask that you provide the following information:

1. Did you ever solicit or receive payments from any person or entity in exchange for using your influence to promote candidates for office or for presidential nominations from President-elect Trump?
2. A summary of any payments made by any presumptive or potential nominee for a presidential appointment to you or your agents or associates, or any entity owned or controlled by Epshteyn or his agents or associates.

Please submit all documents or other records relative to this matter to our offices by January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. Your assistance in this investigation will ensure that the members of the Senate have the robust understanding of the incoming Administration and candidates that is necessary for the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duty to provide advice and consent on the president's nominees.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator  
Chairman, Committee on  
Finance



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
the Judiciary

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<sup>5</sup> *Top Trump Aide Accused of Asking for Money to 'Promote' Potential Appointees*, New York Times (Nov. 25, 2024).

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on  
Banking, Housing, and Urban  
Affairs