

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker McCarthy:

As Members of Congress with backgrounds in national security, we write to you out of concern related to Congressman George Santos's access to classified information and potential appointment to any Congressional Committees that may facilitate and require the use of this information.

In the past few weeks, it has become apparent that Mr. Santos has blatantly fabricated his biographical history, misled the public, and received hundreds of thousands of dollars in unaccounted for campaign contributions. Moreover, law enforcement agencies in Brazil have reinstated fraud charges against Mr. Santos, only adding to the extensive list of reasons that Mr. Santos should resign. However, Mr. Santos has indicated that he will not do so.

This is particularly alarming due to the nature of the information that we, as Members of Congress, have access to. The nature of our position requires knowledge of and exposure to highly sensitive, top secret national security information.

As Members of Congress, we do not obtain security clearances through the standard process members of the public do. While Americans who require access to potentially sensitive information undergo extensive background checks, interviews, and a lengthy holistic review to receive a security clearance, Members of Congress do not. Instead, by nature of the trust of our constituents, we are deemed trustworthy enough to hold our positions, and, in turn, the classified information required to represent the American people we serve.

Mr. Santos has exhibited, time and time again, that the American people cannot trust him, and the voters who once placed their trust in him were deceived. We cannot put our nation at risk by allowing Mr. Santos to sustain access to classified information or appointment to any Congressional Committee that may require this information.

We know firsthand the tremendous effort and sacrifice that goes into keeping this country safe. We view Mr. Santos a direct threat to national security and ask that you ensure Mr. Santos is excluded from access to our nation's most sensitive information and participation in any Committee work that might involve the use of classified information.

As you work to usher in the 118th Congress, we ask that you do so in a way that protects our nation's security, and the classification of sensitive information on which it depends. Mr. Santos has repeatedly proven that he cannot be entrusted with this same responsibility.

Sincerely,



Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress