

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2025

Mr. Peter Slutsky
Former Chief Revenue Officer
ActBlue
c/o Danny Onorato
Schertler Onorato Mead & Sears
555 13th Street, NW
Suite 500 West
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Slutsky:

On April 18, 2025, the Committees wrote to you requesting testimony regarding ActBlue's fraud-prevention policies and practices, reported internal misconduct, and alleged whistleblower retaliation.¹ To date, you have failed to comply with the Committees' request. We therefore write to reiterate our request and ask for your voluntary cooperation.

As we have explained, the Committees are examining allegations that ActBlue, a leading political fundraising organization, allowed bad actors, including foreign actors, to exploit the company's online platform to make fraudulent political donations.² Communications produced to the Committees indicate that while you served as ActBlue's Chief Revenue Officer, you may have worked closely with ActBlue's fraud-prevention team.³ Fraudulent political donations corrupt American elections and could amount to interstate criminal conduct.⁴ Accordingly, we believe you possess information that is necessary for our oversight to inform potential legislative reforms.

¹ Letter from Rep. Bryan Steil, Chairman, Comm. on H. Admin., Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, & Rep. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, to Mr. Peter Slutsky, Former Chief Revenue Officer, ActBlue (Apr. 18, 2025); see Reid J. Epstein & Shane Goldmacher, *ActBlue, the Democratic Fund-Raising Powerhouse, Faces Internal Chaos*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 5, 2025).

² See Letter from Rep. Bryan Steil, Chairman, Comm. on H. Admin., to Ms. Regina Wallace-Jones, Chief Executive Officer, ActBlue (Oct. 28, 2024); Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Ms. Regina Wallace-Jones, Chief Executive Officer, ActBlue (Dec. 9, 2024); Letter from Rep. Bryan Steil, Chairman, Comm. on H. Admin., Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, & Rep. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov't Reform, to Ms. Regina Wallace-Jones, Chief Executive Officer, ActBlue (Apr. 2, 2025).

³ See, e.g., STAFF OF COMM. ON H. ADMIN., H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, & H. COMM. ON OVERSIGHT & GOV'T REFORM, *FRAUD ON ACTBLUE: HOW THE DEMOCRATS' TOP FUNDRAISING PLATFORM OPENS THE DOOR FOR ILLEGAL ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS* (Apr. 2, 2025) at App'x Ex. 3.

⁴ See 52 U.S.C. § 30109(d)(1)(D); 52 U.S.C. § 30122; *United States v. Hui*, No. 2:23-mj-00865 (E.D.N.Y. 2024); (detailing a Chinese national's criminal conviction for operating a straw donor scheme.).

The Committees first informally requested your testimony on March 20, 2025.⁵ On March 31, Mr. Onorato contacted the Judiciary Committee, informing us that you had retained him to represent you in this matter.⁶ On April 18, 2025, the Committees formally requested that you appear for a voluntary transcribed interview.⁷ On April 21, Mr. Onorato indicated that you had agreed to appear for a voluntary transcribed interview and began the process of scheduling your appearance.⁸ However, on May 7, Mr. Onorato notified the Committee that you had changed course and now would not appear for a voluntary transcribed interview.⁹ He cited a reported Executive Branch investigation into “the unlawful use of online fundraising platforms to make ‘straw’ or ‘dummy’ contributions or foreign contributions to political candidates and committees” as the basis for your refusal to cooperate voluntarily with the Committees.¹⁰

Congress has a “broad and indispensable” power to conduct oversight, which “encompasses inquiries into the administration of existing laws, studies of proposed laws, and surveys in our social, economic or political system for the purpose of enabling Congress to remedy them.”¹¹ The Supreme Court has recognized that Congress’s oversight authority is not restricted by ongoing civil and criminal investigations. In *Sinclair v. United States*, for example, the Court noted that the pendency of litigation does not stop Congress’s ability to investigate:

It may be conceded that Congress is without authority to compel disclosures for the purpose of aiding the prosecution of pending suits; but the authority of that body, directly or through its committees, to require pertinent disclosures in aid of its own constitutional power is not abridged because the information sought to be elicited may also be of use in such suits.¹²

The Court has similarly explained that “a congressional committee . . . engaged in a legitimate legislative investigation need not grind to a halt whenever responses to its inquiries might potentially be harmful to a witness in some distinct proceeding . . . or when crime or wrongdoing is exposed.”¹³ The historical record bears this point out—many Congressional investigations have occurred in parallel to Executive Branch investigations of the same or related matters.¹⁴

⁵ Call from Committee Staff to Mr. Peter Slutsky (Mar. 20, 2025).

⁶ Call from Counsel to Committee Staff (Mar. 31, 2025).

⁷ Letter from Rep. Bryan Steil, Chairman, Comm. on H. Admin., Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, & Rep. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight and Gov’t Reform, to Mr. Peter Slutsky, Former Chief Revenue Officer, ActBlue (Apr. 18, 2025).

⁸ Call with Counsel and Committee Staff (Apr. 21, 2025).

⁹ Call with Counsel and Committee Staff (May 7, 2025).

¹⁰ Call with Counsel and Committee Staff (May 7, 2025); see Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, and the Counsel to the President, *Investigation into Unlawful “Straw Donor” and Foreign Contributions in American Elections* (Apr. 24, 2025).

¹¹ *Trump v. Mazars LLP*, 591 U.S. ____ (2020) (slip op. at 11) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted).

¹² 279 U.S. 263, 295 (1929).

¹³ *Hutcheson v. United States*, 369 U.S. 599, 618 (1962).

¹⁴ See, e.g., FINAL REPORT OF THE S. SELECT COMM. ON PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES, 93rd. Cong (June 1974); STAFF OF S. SELECT COMM. ON SECRET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO IRAN AND THE NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION & H. SELECT COMM. TO INVESTIGATE COVERT ARMS TRANSACTIONS WITH IRAN, REPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES INVESTIGATING THE IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR, 100th. Cong (Nov. 13, 1987); FINAL REPORT OF THE S.

The relevant precedent is clear that the mere existence of state or federal law enforcement investigations has no bearing on Congress's oversight power. As such, an Executive Branch investigation into matters related to oversight by the Committees is not a legitimate basis on which you may decline our request. Accordingly, we reiterate our April 18, 2025, request for your testimony. We ask that you schedule your voluntary transcribed interview immediately, but no later than May 29, 2025. The Committees are prepared to resort to compulsory process, if necessary, to obtain compliance with our requests.

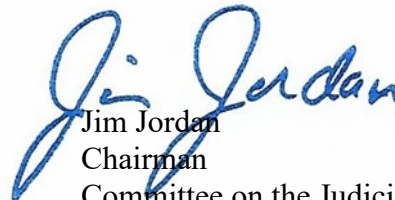
Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committees have jurisdiction to conduct oversight of matters concerning elections, civil liberties, criminal law, and U.S. national security to inform potential legislative reforms.¹⁵ These reforms may include a requirement that card verification values (CVVs) are collected for online political donations,¹⁶ restrictions on political donations made using gift cards, prepaid cards, and foreign credit cards, or enhanced reporting requirements for political donation conduits like ActBlue.

To schedule your transcribed interview, please direct your counsel to contact Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6909. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

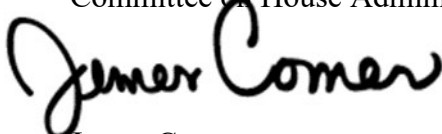
Sincerely,



Bryan Steil
Chairman
Committee on House Administration



Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary

SPECIAL COMM. TO INVESTIGATE WHITEWATER DEVELOPMENT CORP. AND RELATED MATTERS, 104th. Cong. (June 17, 1996); STAFF OF JOINT COMM. ON TAXATION, REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF ENRON CORPORATION AND RELATED ENTITIES REGARDING FEDERAL TAX AND COMPENSATION ISSUES, AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, 108th. Cong (Feb. 2003); STAFF OF S. PERMANENT SUBCOMM. ON INVESTIGATIONS, WALL STREET AND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: ANATOMY OF A COLLAPSE, 112th. Cong (Apr. 13, 2011).

¹⁵ Rules of the House of Representatives R. X (K) Committee on House Administration, (L) Committee on Judiciary, (N) Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (2025).

¹⁶ See, e.g., H.R. 9488, Secure Handling of Internet Electronic Donations (SHIELD) Act, 118th. Cong. (2024).

Mr. Peter Slutsky

May 22, 2025

Page 4

The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle, Ranking Member, Committee on House
Administration

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform