

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906
judiciary.house.gov

September 25, 2024

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

The Committee on the Judiciary is continuing to investigate allegations of politicization and political bias at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). On May 15, 2024, the Committee wrote to FBI Special Agent-in-Charge (SAC) of the Miami Field Office Jeffrey Veltri to request a transcribed interview about his politically biased actions while serving as a Section Chief and Acting Deputy Assistant Director of the FBI's Security Division (SecD).¹ As that request remains outstanding, we write to reiterate our request for Veltri's voluntary appearance at a transcribed interview before the Committee.

While serving as a Section Chief and Acting Deputy Assistant Director of SecD from May 2021 to March 2023, SAC Veltri displayed a concerning pattern of bias against Republicans, particularly President Trump. A whistleblower revealed in June 2024 that Veltri was "often inappropriately involved in individual [security] clearance cases" and "would frequently make initial judgments about cases based on [his] own prejudices [*sic*], then would refuse to move from [his] first impressions—regardless of what facts an investigation uncovered."² Due to Veltri's involvement in these cases, "it was very common when [the whistleblower] arrived in SecD for investigators to ask inappropriate questions . . . such as whether employees under investigation had vocalized support for former President Donald Trump or whether they had vocalized objection to the COVID-19 vaccine."³ The whistleblower saw evidence of Veltri's political bias firsthand, having "participated in many discussions in which it became clear that Veltri's . . . perspective was that if an FBI employee fit a certain

¹ See Letter from Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, to Jeffrey Veltri, Special Agent in Charge, Fed. Bureau of Investigation, Mia. Field Off. (May 15, 2024) [hereinafter "May 15 Letter"].

² Letter from Tristan Leavitt, President, Empower Oversight, to Michael Horowitz & Jeffrey Ragsdale, U.S. Dep't of Just., at 5 (June 28, 2024).

³ *Id.*

profile as a political conservative, they were viewed as security concerns and unworthy to work at the FBI.”⁴

Additional information received by the Committee reinforces the concern that Veltri is biased and that his biases affect his official duties. In one case during Veltri’s tenure in SecD, he ordered an FBI employee’s security clearance to be revoked because the employee exercised the employee’s First Amendment rights to express concern about election integrity efforts.⁵ Witnesses reported that Veltri expressed his belief that “this employee was not entitled to a security clearance because the employee did not believe in the Constitution.”⁶ In another case, an FBI employee briefed Veltri about an FBI Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) “under investigation for his texts with FBI employees who were on the Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021, but not near the violence or breaking any laws.”⁷ When subordinates told Veltri “that there was no basis to suspend the SSA’s clearance, Veltri ordered that the SSA’s clearance nevertheless be revoked.”⁸ Veltri then “went on an extended rant” about the case, which multiple witnesses described as the most “rude and unprofessional behavior by an executive” they had ever seen.⁹

In addition to political bias, Veltri also displayed anti-Christian bigotry in exercising his official duties. In May 2022, an FBI employee who made protected whistleblower disclosures concerning confidential FBI informants at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, told investigators he made the disclosures because “the Holy Spirit compelled him to do so” and he “believed he had a moral imperative to share the information.”¹⁰ According to SecD SSA, Veltri indicated that the whistleblower was “delusional” for invoking his faith, instead of having “secular, moral or ethical reasons for disclosing wrongdoing.”¹¹ Other SecD employees understood Veltri’s statement to mean that he believed the whistleblower’s “Christian beliefs as a devout Catholic were a reason to revoke his access to classified information.”¹²

Veltri also allegedly refused to provide FBI employees with due process in the security clearance suspension and revocation process.¹³ Further, according to reporting, “[i]t was well known that Veltri was adamantly and vocally Anti-Trump.”¹⁴ Another whistleblower disclosed that after Veltri was promoted to SAC of the Miami Field Office, FBI leadership tried to conceal Veltri’s political bias by ordering him to delete his “[a]nti-Trump” posts from his social media accounts.¹⁵ FBI leadership was also forced to delay announcing Veltri’s appointment as SAC of

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Letter from Tristan Leavitt, President, Empower Oversight, to Rep. Jim Jordan, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, at 4 (Sept. 19, 2024) [hereinafter “September 19 Letter”].

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.* at 13

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.* at 11.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ See May 15 Letter, *supra* note 1.

¹⁴ Kerry Pickett, *FBI agent had to erase public vitriol on Trump; Mar-a-Lago in field office’s jurisdiction*, WASH. TIMES (Nov. 20, 2023).

¹⁵ *Id.*

the Miami Field Office after learning of an investigation into Veltri for his role in retaliating against an FBI employee who blew the whistle on Veltri's political bias.¹⁶

As SAC of the Miami Field Office, Veltri is now in charge of the FBI's investigation of the second assassination attempt of President Trump.¹⁷ Veltri's apparent political bias against President Trump and conservatives is highly troubling and will undoubtedly affect the FBI's investigation into the attempted assassination of President Trump. Even if Veltri were able to conduct an impartial investigation of this matter—which we doubt—it is undeniable that his well-established and widely known political bias would create at least the appearance of partiality.

We wrote to Veltri in May 2024 to request a transcribed interview about his actions as a Section Chief and Acting Deputy Assistant Director of SecD.¹⁸ That request remains outstanding and we again ask that Veltri appear for a transcribed interview with the Committee without delay. The Committee is prepared to use compulsory process to obtain Veltri's testimony if necessary.

Please schedule SAC Veltri's transcribed interview as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 9, 2024. Pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of the FBI.¹⁹ If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member

¹⁶ September 19 Letter, *supra* note 5, at 13.

¹⁷ See Press Release, Fed. Bureau of Investigation, FBI Miami Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey Veltri's Updates to the West Palm Beach, Florida, Assassination Attempt Investigation (Sept. 16, 2024).

¹⁸ See May 15 Letter, *supra* note 1.

¹⁹ Rules of the House of Representatives, R. X, 118th Cong. (2023).