



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy:

We write to express our serious concerns over newly elected Congressman George Santos and whether it is appropriate for him to access confidential and classified information. The Congressman's race to represent New York's 3rd congressional district and the months following have unveiled significant and egregious allegations that cannot be ignored. Media reports and investigations detail Mr. Santos' myriad deceptive actions¹ from his personal and professional life which he used to propel himself into a position of influence and short-lived financial prosperity. The numerous concerning allegations about his behavior over decades put his character into question, and suggest he cannot be trusted with confidential and classified information that could threaten the United States' national security.

In the United States, Congressman Santos is under investigation by the Nassau County District Attorney, the New York State Attorney General's office, and the federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York. At the start of the year, Brazilian law enforcement authorities announced their intent to revive a 2008 court case in which Congressman Santos reportedly used a false name to defraud a small business of nearly a thousand dollars' worth of products. Additionally, recent allegations regarding Congressman Santos' campaign donations linked to Andrew Intrater and his cousin, sanctioned Russian oligarch Viktor Vekselberg, should further raise questions about the wisdom of allowing Representative Santos to access any form of classified information.²

As the newly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, we call on you to limit Congressman George Santos' ability to access classified materials, including preventing him from attending any classified briefings and limiting his access to such information through his committee assignments. As it currently stands, Members are not mandated to have security clearances nor sign a nondisclosure agreement, however, that does not entitle them to unlimited access to classified information.

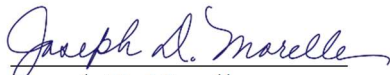
¹ NBC New York, "List of George Santos Lies: All the Mistruths the Congressman is Accused of Telling", January 12, 2023


² Washington Post, "New details link George Santos to cousin of sanctioned Russian oligarch." January 16, 2023

Congressman George Santos was assigned to committees whose jurisdiction may pertain to only a portion of our country's national security and foreign policy agenda, yet this does not stop or inhibit him from requesting a secure briefing or classified documents regarding a breadth of topics at any time. You publicly expressed that the Congressman has "a long way to go to earn trust"³, his untrustworthiness could warrant the Intelligence Community to slow down or limit certain classified information it shares with Congress. This could have profound implications for the Legislative Branch's ability to perform its legislative, oversight, and investigative duties over the Executive Agencies' classified programs.

As Members of Congress, we all sign an oath to not disclose any classified information received in the course of our service with the House of Representatives.⁴ It is clear that Congressman George Santos has violated the public's trust on various occasions and his unfettered access to our nation's secrets presents a significant risk to the national security of this country. We urge you to act swiftly to prevent George Santos from abusing his position and endangering our nation.

Sincerely,


Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress


Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

³ CNN, "McCarthy stands by Santos despite growing calls for resignation from other GOP lawmakers", January 12, 2023

⁴ Clerk of the House of Representatives, "Rules of the House of Representatives, One Hundred Eighteenth Congress", pg. 44, House Rule XXIII Sec. 13 January 10, 2023