

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are requesting that you immediately demand Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta's resignation. Secretary Acosta's severe mishandling of the Epstein case, reinforced by the recent ruling by U.S. District Judge Kenneth Marra which found that the Secretary violated the Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA) by secretly arranging a plea deal, shows an utter disregard for the law and those he was charged with representing. As such, he has no place serving as a top official in the Executive Branch.

As you know, Mr. Epstein, a billionaire with deep political connections, has been accused of molesting and trafficking over 80 young women, according to various reports, since the early 2000s. In an article published by the Miami Herald last November, several women gave detailed accounts of being lured to his Palm Beach mansion and being forced to have sex with Epstein or other men who came to his home. They also discovered that after he had been arrested, multiple women were intimidated by Epstein and his staff and told not to talk to the police, which led to many victims remaining silent.

Despite abundant evidence and multiple witnesses still willing to come forward, then-U.S. Attorney Acosta failed to charge Epstein under federal trafficking laws, which could have put Epstein away for life. Instead, he pleaded guilty to far lesser prostitution-related charges and served only 13 months in a private wing of a county jail but was able to leave 6 days a week for 12 hours at a time. This despicable unjust plea deal that was arranged by Acosta showed no respect for the suffering of the victims and credible accounts of human trafficking and was a clear abuse of power for political gain.

Additionally, none of the 36 victims who came forward were consulted during the negotiating of this deal and therefore were not able to exercise their right under the CVRA to object or be notified of any court proceedings. Victims were told to be 'patient' while the FBI continued to investigate, when really Acosta's team was deep in the process of negotiating with the defense. In fact, emails discovered as part of the Miami Herald investigation showed that the defense and prosecutorial team communicated frequently, sometime using private emails, and that the defense often dictated the terms of the agreement citing Epstein's displeasure. Further, Acosta himself stated that Epstein's legal team had intimidated him to not take the case to trial and

investigated him and his team to disqualify them from the case. Due to the deal struck, it's clear that Acosta succumbed to the pressure.

As Members of Congress we are committed to ensuring that those who occupy top positions in the federal government are held to the highest standards of the law. We strongly believe that Secretary Acosta was negligent in his duty to represent the best interests of the victims and the U.S. Government. As such, we request that you immediately demand his letter of resignation.

Sincerely,

Julie Speier

Lois Frankel

Richard Blumenthal

Jamie Raskin

June Mills

Sheila Jackson Lee

David N. Cicilline

Adam Smith

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Doc Hastings

John M. Edwards

Tim Ryan

Stacey Plaskett

Donald S. Berg

Jan Schakowsky

Kathy Carter

Don Satt

Brenda Lawrence
