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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 17, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

I write to request access to proceedings, transcripts, materials and other records that are informing the impeachment inquiry announced on September 24, 2019.

The Constitution provides Congress the authority to impeach Federal officials and remove them from office. Despite a committees' ability to conduct inquiries through general investigatory authority, historical precedent provides that Congress authorize an official impeachment inquiry. Congressional authorization of an impeachment inquiry can strengthen investigatory powers as well as ensure minority rights and participation, as were granted during the inquiries into President Clinton and President Nixon.

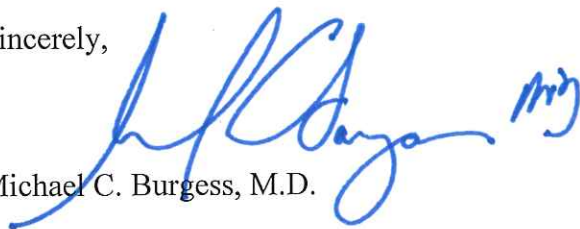
A resolution authorizing an impeachment investigation may be considered by the Rules Committee and reported to the House floor. In addition, a resolution citing Articles of Impeachment will come through the Rules Committee. As a member of this important committee, it is a disservice to my fellow Members of Congress and the American people to vote on resolutions authorizing an impeachment inquiry or citing Articles of Impeachment without seeing the evidence supporting such resolutions.

Under House Rule XI, clause 2(e), committee records are the property of the House and are accessible by all Members of the House. While a committee may place restrictions on where, when, and how records are viewed, Members are granted access following a committee vote on the restrictions. I understand the sensitive nature of some materials obtained through the course of an investigation and am prepared to comply with viewing restrictions. However, as a member of the Rules Committee, that will vote on whether to bring Articles of Impeachment to the House floor, I must be able to view all proceedings, transcripts, materials, and other records supporting those Articles of Impeachment in order to make an informed decision.

MB: rh

To that end, I request permission to observe proceedings of the committees conducting impeachment investigations as well as any corresponding materials or records. I appreciate your prompt consideration of this request and am available to discuss any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Burgess" with a circled "MB" to the right.

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.