



## Republican National Committee

**Reince Priebus**  
Chairman

March 25, 2015

Valerie Jarrett  
Senior Advisor to the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Jarrett:

On December 12, 2008 as then-Senator Hillary Clinton was under consideration to become then-President elect Barack Obama's Secretary Of State, the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team established a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the William J. Clinton Foundation (the "Clinton Foundation") that determined, among other things, how the foundation would handle contributions while Hillary Clinton served as Secretary. As you likely recall, the agreement was signed by then-CEO of the Clinton Foundation Bruce Lindsey and yourself, at the time serving as Transition Team Co-Chair.

Under the MOU, the Clinton Foundation agreed not to accept donations from foreign governments that had not previously contributed to the foundation without a State Department ethics reviews, and agreed to disclose annually a list of its donors.

The purpose of the MOU was to allay concerns that donors to the Clinton Foundation could influence United States foreign policy or other matters under Secretary Clinton's purview by contributing to her family's non-profit that now bears her name. The transition team said in a statement at the time that "We believe the agreement with the Clinton Foundation meets our goals of transparency and goes above and beyond in preventing conflicts."

However, recent reports indicate that not only were there serious loopholes limiting the ability of the MOU to ensure transparency and prevent conflicts, but that it was repeatedly violated.

In February, it was discovered that the Clinton Foundation accepted millions from foreign governments, and, in one instance, was in direct violation of the MOU. As reported by *The Washington Post*, the Clinton Foundation recognized it should have sought approval from the State Department, as protocol prescribed for new donor countries, before accepting \$500,000 from the Algerian government. Several of these donor countries have



complicated relationships with the United States and have long histories of human rights violations.

Just last week, *Reuters* reported that the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) failed to disclose its donors annually, between 2010-2013, in accordance with the MOU. During this time, CHAI received new or increased donations from seven foreign governments whose contributions totaled millions of dollars. None of these donations were submitted to the State Department for review – a clear violation of the terms of the MOU. CHAI's spokeswoman Maura Daley acknowledged CHAI's violation of the terms of the MOU, stating: "CHAI should have published the names during 2010-2013, when Clinton was in office..." Daley further admitted that CHAI should have conferred with the State Department before accepting \$340,000 in contributions from Switzerland's Agency for Development and Cooperation. As expected, a spokesperson for Hillary Clinton declined to comment on the matter.

It is clear that the MOU between the Clinton Foundation and the Obama-Biden Transition Team failed to alleviate conflicts of interest, and at times was blatantly ignored. These breaches raise serious questions about the handling and enforcement of the MOU, including the following:

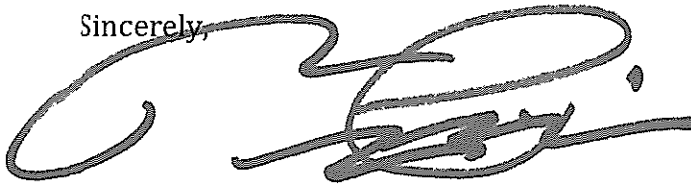
- At what point did the Administration become aware that the MOU and the process of vetting Clinton Foundation donors were flawed?
- What did the White House do, if anything, to mitigate issues with the Clinton Foundation's donors?
- Was the White House aware that the MOU was insufficient while Clinton was serving as Secretary of State? If so, were any addendums added to supplement the MOU?
- Who at the White House or within the Administration was in charge of vetting donors to CHAI?
- Was there any independent audit or verification that the Clinton Foundation was abiding by the MOU's Donor Disclosure provisions?
- Were White House officials aware that CHAI's donor lists were not being disclosed annually?
- Were foreign governments that contributed to the Clinton Foundation given special treatment or consideration by the White House?
- If the White House had been aware of the violations, would the Clinton Foundation or Secretary Clinton have been reprimanded in some fashion for their actions?

The public deserves detailed answers to these questions. I request a response to each in writing.

The MOU was billed to the public and Congress as a pledge toward transparency and the avoidance of conflicts of interest. The American people deserve to know whether it was

nothing more than a memorandum between parties that had no real interest in either of these goals. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Reince Priebus', written over a horizontal line.

Reince Priebus  
Chairman, Republican National Committee