United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Mick Mulvaney
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

May 10, 2018

Mr. Mulvaney,

We are writing regarding your deeply troubling comments about policies in your Congressional office favoring political donors. We also write to determine whether you have continued this policy into your current positions in the executive branch.

We agree that Senators and Members of Congress should make every effort to meet with the people from the states we represent. However, we strongly disagree with your policy of accepting meetings based on whether a lobbyist had made campaign contributions. In remarks to the American Bankers Association on April 24, 2018, you stated:

> *We had a hierarchy in my office in Congress. If you're a lobbyist who never gave us money, I didn't talk to you. If you're a lobbyist who gave us money, I might talk to you.*

Selling access to a Congressional office is unconscionable. Nowhere does the Constitution state that Americans should have to buy their constitutional right to petition the government. This policy, formal or informal, is anti-democratic, unethical; and if it's not illegal, it should be.

It certainly runs contrary to rules of the House of Representatives. The House Ethics Manual states:

> *The Standards Committee has long advised Members and staff that they should always exercise caution to avoid even the appearance that solicitations of campaign contributions are connected in any way with an action taken or not taken in their official capacity.*

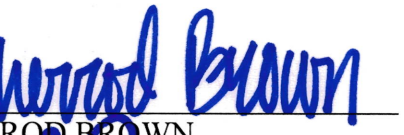
We are concerned that you may be continuing this unethical practice as an employee of the executive branch. In your work at the Office of Management and Budget and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the policies you have supported, consistent with those sought by your campaign contributors, are a foreseeable result of this type of influence peddling.

The policy you followed in your Congressional office reserved access for special interests with deep pockets. If this practice carried over into your executive branch work, you may have further damaged faith in our democracy.

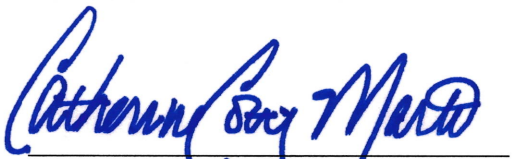
So that we can begin to assess whether your decisions at the Office of Management and Budget and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have been subject to undue influence, we request that you immediately make available for public review the entirety of your official schedule, dating back to your confirmation by the Senate. We also request you submit to Congress any documents, instructions to staff, or other communications in your positions at the Office of Management and Budget or the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that discuss specific meetings with registered lobbyists, or other private industry representatives, and any documents or communications detailing formal or informal policies for prioritization of meeting requests that will shed light on the scope and depth of this practice.

Please provide these documents to us, in care of the minority staff of the Banking committee, no later than May 18, 2018.

Sincerely,



SHERROD BROWN



CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO



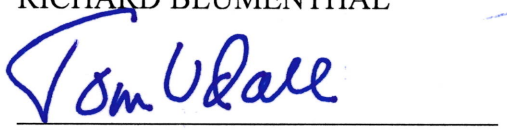
DOUG JONES



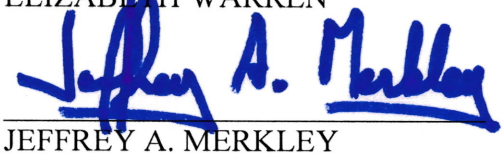
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL



ELIZABETH WARREN



TOM UDALL



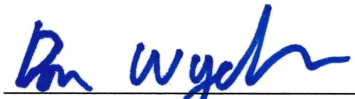
JEFFREY A. MERKLEY



BERNARD SANDERS



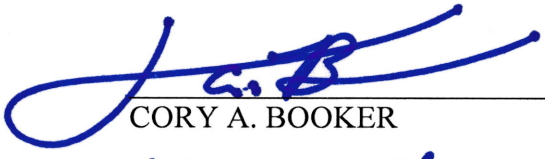
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN



RON WYDEN



EDWARD J. MARKEY



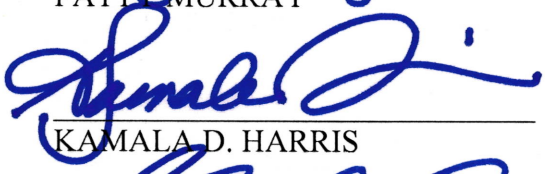
CORY A. BOOKER



PATTY MURRAY



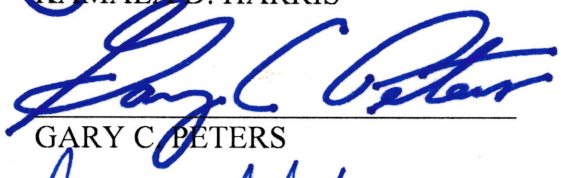
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND



KAMALA D. HARRIS



DIANNE FEINSTEIN



GARY C. PETERS



MICHAEL F. BENNET



BILL NELSON



MAZIE K. HIRONO



TIM KAINE



TAMMY DUCKWORTH