



August 17, 2015, 04:20 pm

GOP senator questions Clinton attorney on security clearance

By Jordain Carney



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Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) is digging into the security clearance status of David Kendall, Hillary Clinton's longtime attorney and confidant, suggesting the former secretary of State's emails did not belong in his hands.

"The transmission of classified material to an individual unauthorized to possess it is a serious national security risk," the Iowa Republican **wrote** in a letter sent to Kendall on Friday but released Monday. "Moreover, if a person unauthorized to maintain custody of the classified materials does in fact maintain custody, it raises legitimate questions as to whether the information was properly secured from foreign governments and other entities."

Grassley, in the letter to Kendall, wants to know when the attorney received security clearance tied to Clinton's emails, what level he received, the names of any other employees at his law firm who were allowed to view or possess Clinton's emails, what their level of security clearance was and which government agency granted the clearance and why.

He also wants to know if the State Department requested that Kendall or his associates be given a security clearance, and if so, Grassley wants to know when that happened and why.

The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee also wants to know when Clinton transferred her emails to Kendall or his associates and if the former secretary currently holds a clearance.

Grassley points to a **letter** from Charles McCullough, the inspector general for the intelligence community, which confirms that he has identified two classified emails, as well as Clinton turning over her personal server and USB flash drives, to raise questions about Kendall's level of security clearance.

"It appears the FBI has determined that your clearance is not sufficient to allow you to maintain custody of the emails," he added in the letter.

He also cited a **McClatchy report** that raises questions about when U.S. officials realized there was classified information in Clinton's emails, adding that "since at least May 2015 ... it appears that in addition to not having an adequate security clearance, you did not have the appropriate tools in place to secure the thumb drives."

Grassley also wants to know if, since the inspector general notified the FBI that classified information had potentially been mishandled, Clinton or Kendall had their security clearances suspended.

Grassley's letter is the latest in a series of inquiries from a growing number of congressional Republicans who want more information on the handling of Clinton's email and the ongoing government investigations.

Grassley sent letters earlier this month with questions on Clinton and a top aide to Secretary of State John Kerry and FBI Director James Comey, which, his office noted Monday, have gone unanswered.

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