



April 7, 2023

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
442 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Paul,

We want to thank you for convening the recent hearing on the federal government's declassification system. It was made clear from the witness testimony and questions from committee members that the current system is dysfunctional and there is bipartisan support for extensive reforms.

The National Coalition for History (NCH) is a consortium of 43 organizations that advocates and educates on federal legislative and regulatory issues affecting historians, archivists, researchers, educators, students, documentary editors, preservationists, genealogists, political scientists, museum professionals and others. Many of our members rely heavily on the declassification of federal records in their work.

We would like to submit for the record recommendations prepared by one of our member organizations, the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), on reforming the declassification process. NCH has endorsed the statement.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit these recommendations and offer our assistance as you craft these reforms.

Sincerely,

Lee White
Executive Director
National Coalition for History