

Black Legislative American Caucus

Commission Secretary Federal Election Commission 1050 First Street, NW Washington, DC 20463

RE: Draft Interpretive Rule on Use of Campaign Funds by Members of Congress for Personal and Residential Security

To: The Commission Secretary of the Federal Election Commission

From: Constance Lov Johnson, President, BLAC

Date: March 18, 2021

It is critically important that the Congressional Members of the United States be permitted to utilize campaign finances to protect themselves through three forms of security, their residences, offices, and vehicles. The congressional members' vehicles must be secured while engaged in government work, social meetings, or provided with government vehicles that are secured.

The law states that the H.R.229 - Campaign Spending Integrity Act restricts a government official or candidate from using campaign finances to pay for personal home and business expenses. Adding the expense of a home security system to the campaign finance report would presently classify as a violation of H.R. 229. Coding this proposed rule would set forth a much needed level of protection for our officials. We highly recommend the final rule and regulation.

We are sending a copy of this comment to the agency that secures the interior of the Capitol building to request an amendment to the rule that congressional members and cleaning staff keep all offices locked during congressional meetings as an important part of the routine for safety.

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