



VIA SENATE ETHICS ELECTRONIC MAIL: mailbox_office@ethics.senate.gov

October 20, 2026

Chairman James Lankford and Vice Chairman Christopher Coons
Senate Select Committee on Ethics
220 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Request for investigation into Senator Elissa Slotkin's recent threatening comments toward young professionals

Dear Chairman Lankford and Vice Chairman Coons,

This complaint addresses possible violations of the United States Senate Ethics Rules and the United States Senate Code of Conduct by Senator Elissa Slotkin (D-MI). We ask that you initiate an investigation into Senator Slotkin due to her recent comments threatening lawfare against young professionals looking for a career path in the federal government. In these unprecedented times of baseless lawfare, we are concerned that Senator Slotkin's public threat will deter young professionals from public service.

The Center to Advance Security in America (CASA) is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the safety and security of the American people. CASA educates and informs the American people about the actions of their government and its officials that impact their safety; peace and security; democracy, civil rights, and civil liberties; and privacy.

I. Factual Overview

Elissa Slotkin is a United States Senator from Michigan and serves on sensitive committees such as the Armed Services Committee and Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.¹

In a recent interview on the University of Chicago campus, Slotkin made an alarming remark. No longer does she only advocate for political prosecutions of the President of the United States and his leadership, she has now focused her attention on scare tactics even for young Americans who are considering a career in the federal government. During this interview, Slotkin said, "I want to look at these signature cases and not just focus on the president, but on the people who enabled him. I want young people coming out of school to say, 'Should I go work for the Trump administration?'"² "I want them to be like, 'Lord, that might

¹ "About," Senator Elissa Slotkin, United States Senate, accessed October 19, 2026, <https://www.slotkin.senate.gov/about/>.

² An excerpt from a much longer interview can be found at: The Chicago Thinker (@ThinkerChicago), "ON UCHICAGO CAMPUS: U.S. Senator from Michigan Elissa Slotkin hopes planned political prosecutions of



be buying myself a ton of problems that I don't want so let me avoid in participating in that [working for the administration].’ I want that deterrence message sent.”³

II. Ethics Standards

The Senate Ethics Manual is in place to provide guidelines and practices for all Senate members, ensuring principles and ethics above self-interest or party affiliation. These rules are in place to ensure appropriate behavior and conduct from the Members of the Senate at all times.

The Senate Ethics Manual states that, “The Senate or House may discipline a Member for any misconduct, including conduct or activity which does not directly relate to official duties, when such conduct unfavorably reflects on the institution as a whole.”⁴

Additionally, the Manual states, “the Senate of the United States is a responsible political body, important in the maintenance of our free institutions. Its Members are expected to conduct themselves with a proper respect for the principles of ethics and morality, for senatorial customs based on tradition, and with due regard for the importance of maintaining the good reputation of the Senate as the highest legislative body in the Nation.”⁵

If a potential violation is identified, a preliminary investigation should be initiated and if enough credible evidence exists of a potential violation, then a formal investigation would be opened.⁶

III. Analysis

Threatening young professionals with future “problems” for the mere sin of working for the President that the American People elected is an anathema to the very foundations of our political systems. It is already immoral to weaponize our government against those running for office or who have been elected in the form of lawfare. But it is another level to weaponize it against those who are entering their careers as public servants.

Indeed, such a threat likely violates the very principles of the Constitution itself. The First Amendment guarantees the right to freely associate with others. A promise to bring lawfare against young professionals for merely seeking employment with a *sitting president* is a threat against this fundamental right.

republican [sic] leaders will scare young conservatives from getting involved in politics,” X, October 17, 2026, 4:50 p.m., <https://x.com/ThinkerChicago/status/2111560599167795418>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ U.S. Congress, Senate, *Select Committee on Ethics. Senate Ethics Manual*, 108th Congress, 1st sess., 2003 Edition, 2003, 25.

⁵ Ibid. 6.

⁶ Ibid. 14.



Not only that, a threat such as this surely reflects “unfavorably” upon the Senate as an institution, especially if the threatening remarks go unaddressed. Slotkin’s remarks show disrespect for ethics and morality, for senatorial customs and tradition, and a blatant disregard for the importance of maintaining the good reputation of the Senate. This type of disgusting, vitriolic, and threatening language is exactly the type of behavior that needs to be addressed and punished by the Senate as an institution.

Senator Slotkin, and United States Senators generally, have a large, national, and even international platform on which to speak, capture public attention, and shape national or political agendas. Slotkin has used this platform to advocate for lawfare against young professionals entering the workforce who desire to work for the Trump administration. This type of disturbing behavior should be immediately addressed by this committee.

IV. Conclusion

Senator Slotkin’s remarks carry a bit of irony. On her campaign website, she claims to have “always stood her ground when it comes to issues of principle, like protecting our rights and our democracy.”⁷ But her words and actions demonstrate a desire to take all available measures to undermine a duly elected president, even if it means prosecuting individuals for no other reason than working for the Trump administration. She only respects the rights of those who support her and think like her. But when it comes to her opposition, or those who would work for her opposition, “our rights” go out the window.

Upholding the Senate’s ethical standards is essential to preserving public trust in our democratic institutions. I trust that this matter will receive the Committee’s full attention. We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to the outcome of your investigation.

Sincerely,

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⁷ “Priorities,” Elissa Slotkin for Michigan, accessed October 19, 2026, <https://elissaslotkin.org/priorities/>.