



July 9th, 2019

Honorable Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Allied Progress
1875 Connecticut Ave NW, Floor 10
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Chairman Graham:

On behalf of Allied Progress, a leading consumer advocacy group, I am writing to encourage you to open an investigation into the misconduct of United States Labor Secretary Alex Acosta with regard to his plea bargain negotiations with Jeffrey Epstein in 2008.

As you know, on Monday, July 8th, Epstein was charged with sex trafficking in the Southern District of New York. This overdue step towards real justice comes more than a decade after Epstein accepted a plea deal with the Southern District of Florida, an office then led by Alex Acosta, that allowed Epstein back into society after a slap-on-the wrist. Rather than serve the serious prison time his crimes called for, Epstein got a 'country club' jail sentence of 15 months with cushy work release privileges.

This matter has already been under investigation by the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) since early February, but we maintain the strong view that such an investigation is not capable of going far enough because it lacks subpoena power and can only issue non-binding disciplinary recommendations. Not to mention that OPR has a reputation of secrecy with regard to its probes, which can undercut public accountability.

Serious questions still need to be answered about why Acosta let a billionaire money manager back on the streets and jetting across continents despite appalling allegations of child sex abuse involving [over 100](#) underage girls. Acosta continues to insist he acted appropriately, even bragging during his confirmation hearing for Labor Secretary that he considered his handling of the case a "point of pride" and that the outcome was a "good thing".

A federal judge even [ruled on Feb. 21st](#) that Acosta actually broke the law by failing to disclose this inexcusably lenient plea deal to the victims and their families. Just today you said "If this plea deal doesn't withstand scrutiny then it would be the job of the Judiciary Committee to find out how it got off the rails. What kind of checks and balances do we have to make sure that complaints involving minor children are adequately investigated?"

Your Committee has the power to get to the bottom of why Acosta failed to take more meaningful actions in this case by hauling him in for questioning. In other words, you as chairman of the Judiciary Committee have the power to serve as the "check and balance" you are calling for in the media. Actions speak louder than words.

We would hope you agree that justice has not been served in this case and that a Congressional investigation into the matter is not just appropriate, but necessary to help prevent similar prosecutorial misconduct in the future. A serial sex offender has roamed free for the last ten years instead of sitting in a prison cell all the while the prosecutor who allowed that to happen has been promoted to an even greater position of public trust.

As Chairman, we hope you are willing to get to the bottom of this issue out of respect for the victims in this case. It should not matter that Secretary Acosta is a member of your friend Donald Trump's inner circle. It would require incredible cynicism to view a case of mass child abuse through the lens of politics before deciding to act. Please, do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Kyle Herrig
Senior Advisor, Allied Progress