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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW Rm 5111
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Dear Attorney General Holder:

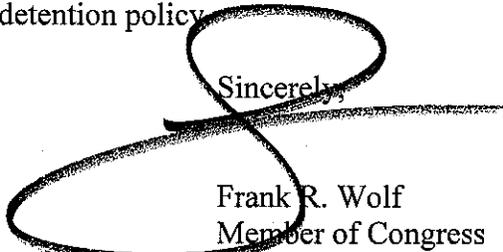
I was deeply concerned by Assistant Attorney General Ronald Weich's response to Senator Grassley with regard to the department officials involved in crafting Guantanamo Bay detainee policy who previously advocated for represented detainees. I believe that the decision to allow attorneys who advocated for terrorists held at Guantanamo to craft detainee policy during the War on Terror would be akin to allowing attorneys for the Mafia to draft organized crime policy during the 1960s. The American people deserve a full accounting of who is crafting detainee policy in the Department of Justice.

According to Mr. Weich's letter, "Department appointees have been authorized to participate in policy and legal discussions regarding detainee matters and decisions relating to the disposition of detainees, except in those particular matters involving specific parties from which they are recused." To have appointees who had represented detainees now setting the federal detention policies for the detainees is an inherent conflict of interest, whether or not the appointees were recused from discussing a certain case.

Mr. Weich's assertion that "the Department does not maintain comprehensive records of such information about individual Department employees" is an insufficient response. He acknowledged that at least five detainee lawyers currently serve as department political appointees and that four others were involved in advocacy for detainees. Additionally, *The Washington Times* reported on February 26 that there are at least 14 attorneys at the Justice Department "whose firms at least did significant detainee work." Given this information, I respectfully request a full accounting of the names and titles of department officials involved in detainee policy that previously represented or advocated for terrorist detainees.

I appreciate Senator Grassley and the Senate Judiciary members who have worked to raise awareness of this important issue. The lawyers who represented detainees should not be involved in crafting detention policy.

Sincerely,


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress