

September 2026: The Trump Administration Must Immediately Restore Journalist Access to the White House

Dear President Trump,

We write with concern and outrage about your administration's denial of journalist access to the White House this past weekend. One day after announcing that CNN, MS NOW, and Politico would be "banned" from the White House over their coverage, your administration denied journalists from those outlets access to the grounds Saturday morning and seized at least one reporter's press credential. Denying reporters access because of their outlets' viewpoints is a gross violation of the First Amendment.

The White House is a government building funded by American taxpayers and a center of consequential governmental decision-making. Access to it is not a privilege the President grants or revokes based on whether coverage flatters him. A free and independent press is essential to our democracy. It allows Americans to stay informed about the decisions their government makes in their name and with their money.

What the Trump Administration did this past weekend is unconstitutional. It is an assault on the free press and an affront to the American people. Retaliating against journalists for their outlets' coverage sets a dangerous precedent: that White House access depends on political loyalty. This is the kind of government control over the press that the First Amendment prohibits.

The undersigned organizations call upon the White House to immediately reinstate full journalist access, regardless of outlet or viewpoint. Press credentials must be granted on a viewpoint-neutral basis, as the Constitution requires.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Teachers
American Oversight
Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
Campaign Legal Center
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)
Common Cause
Constitutional Accountability Center
DemCast USA
Demand Progress
Democracy 21
Democracy Defenders Action
Fair Fight Action
Free Speech For People
Freedom From Religion Foundation
Freedom of the Press Foundation
Glisten (Formerly GLSEN)

Human Rights Campaign
Indivisible
Lawyers for Good Government
Media and Democracy Project
MoveOn
National Education Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Women's Law Center
People For the American Way
Popular Democracy
Public Citizen
Stand Up America
Strong Economy For All Coalition
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Workers Circle
Union of Concerned Scientists
Win Without War
Women's March