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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

September 17, 2026

The Honorable Kash Patel  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Patel:

I write regarding recent public reporting that a Russian oligarch with close ties to President Vladimir Putin paid for significant portions of Donald Trump Jr.'s wedding celebration in May 2026. This report, if accurate, presents significant counterintelligence concerns that must be thoroughly investigated by the FBI.

On September 14, 2026, [ProPublica reported](#) that Umar Kremlev, president of the International Boxing Association (IBA), paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in wedding expenses, including renting a private island where the reception was held and guests stayed, and a fireworks show. According to the report, the payments were made through IB Challenger, a Dubai entity affiliated with the IBA, an organization that has received funding from Gazprom, Russia's state-owned energy company. After the story was published, Mr. Trump's wife publicly confirmed that Mr. Kremlev hosted two nights of post-wedding celebrations. ProPublica further reported that the roughly 50 guests at the wedding included a sizable group of Russians, among them Alexander Lagutin, who has held senior roles at a Russian defense contractor and a state-backed energy company.

The ProPublica story and other open-source reporting describe Mr. Kremlev's close ties to the Russian state. Media reporting indicates that Mr. Kremlev recently accompanied President Putin on an official visit to China and that he was awarded the Order of Friendship medal by President Putin. Mr. Kremlev was reportedly at one time a member of the "Night Wolves" motorcycle club, a violent Russia nationalist organization sanctioned by the United States due to its support to Russia's war against Ukraine.

As you know, the FBI has primary responsibility for counterintelligence within the United States, including identifying and mitigating efforts by foreign intelligence services and their proxies to gain access to Americans in positions of power. Although Mr. Trump Jr. is not a public official, as the son of the President and as someone with regular access to senior policymakers, he would be a natural target for foreign espionage and influence operations.

As noted by former FBI counterintelligence officials quoted in the ProPublica reporting, foreign intelligence operatives seek ties with U.S. officials and their relatives and may use financial inducements

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to gain access. In this case, it appears a Kremlin-connected individual provided substantial undisclosed financial benefits to a close family member and political adviser of the President. These facts warrant careful counterintelligence review to identify and mitigate risks to national security—whether or not a crime was committed. And, as you know, in the counterintelligence context the FBI regularly opens investigations on the basis of a threat to national security alone.

Consistent with the Committee's oversight responsibilities, I request that the FBI provide the following information:

1. Whether the FBI was aware, before the September 14 reporting, of Mr. Kremlev's relationship with Mr. Trump Jr. or of the payments described above.
2. Whether the FBI has assessed, or intends to assess, whether Mr. Kremlev, the IBA, IB Challenger, or any Russian national who attended the event acted on behalf of or in coordination with the Russian government, including its intelligence services.
3. Whether the FBI has provided, or intends to provide, a defensive counterintelligence briefing to Mr. Trump Jr. or to any U.S. government personnel who attended the event.
4. Whether the FBI or the broader Intelligence Community holds any information about Mr. Kremlev, the sources of funding for the IBA and IB Challenger, and any connection between this individual or these entities with the Russian state.

Please provide a written response no later than September 30, 2026. Information may be provided in classified form as necessary.

Sincerely,



James A. Himes  
Ranking Member