



[Impeachment Inquiry Ramps Up in the House of Representatives](#)

Speaker Nancy Pelosi recently announced on September 24th that the U.S. House of Representatives would begin an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump. The inquiry seeks to determine if he betrayed his oath of office by collaborating with a foreign power against a domestic political foe. Speaker Pelosi's decision marked an abrupt change in strategy, having previously resisted calls from within her party to begin impeachment proceedings. Many Democratic lawmakers had been calling for impeachment in recent months, with most harboring feelings that President Trump is unfit for office.

The impeachment inquiry was prompted by a whistleblower within the intelligence community coming forward and detailing inappropriate requests made by President Trump to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. President Trump asked his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate Joe Biden and his son Hunter. The President's claims centered around a theory that then-Vice President Biden misused his authority to secure the firing of Ukraine's top prosecutor, who was investigating a Ukrainian gas company of which Hunter Biden was a board member. However, the prosecutor was considered highly corrupt, and the investigation into the gas company was over at the time of Vice President Biden's calls for his removal. President Trump had blocked \$391 million in aid to Ukraine days earlier, and critics have accused him of withholding the aid in a quid pro quo fashion until Zelensky investigated his allegations.

The whistleblower is allegedly a CIA agent who was detailed to the White House, and corroborated his information from multiple U.S. officials. The individual raised concerns about the Trump Administration's handling of the phone call, and detailed efforts by senior White House officials to "lock down" the transcript of the call by putting it in a classified, high-security server. The whistleblower also specifically raised concerns about the role of Rudy Giuliani in the endeavor, citing their alarm about Giuliani's circumvention of the national security decision-making process in negotiating with Ukraine.

President Trump has been bullish in defending himself from the impeachment inquiry, attacking his rivals through the press and on Twitter. The President has specifically targeted certain members of Congress, with House Intelligence Committee Chair Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) drawing his ire in particular. Trump has also called for the whistleblower's identity to be made public, and accused the individual of treason. In addition to this, the Administration has stalled proceedings in the House, specifically through preventing key witnesses from testifying and calling the inquiry "illegitimate." Secretary of State Mike Pompeo sent a letter to House Foreign Affairs Chairman Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) calling the committee's request for State Department officials to testify an "attempt to intimidate, bully, and treat improperly" foreign service officers. Most recently, the White House notified Speaker Pelosi that they would not be cooperating with impeachment proceedings until there was a floor vote mandating them to do so. In response, Pelosi accused the President of normalizing lawlessness, and warned that continued efforts to stall the inquiry would be considered "further evidence of obstruction."

Neither President Trump nor Speaker Pelosi are showing any signs of backing down, which means the impeachment saga will continue to dominate headlines. The President will likely continue to question the legitimacy of the inquiry, while the next step for the Speaker and her allies on Capitol Hill is to issue subpoenas to persons of interest to appear before Congress.