

August 2, 2018

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Press Secretary
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Sanders:

We, a bipartisan coalition of transparency, government accountability, civil liberties and press freedom organizations, write concerning news reports that the White House prevented CNN reporter Kaitlan Collins from covering a Rose Garden event as a consequence of her having previously asked a question of President Trump at an Oval Office photo opportunity that drew the administration's ire.

In a statement condemning the White House's action, White House Correspondents' Association President Olivier Knox stated "Reporters asking questions of powerful government officials, up to and including the President, helps hold those people accountable." We agree.

An informed public and functioning democracy is contingent on a free press. We demand the White House refrain from punishing journalists for asking tough questions, and instead welcome *all* credentialed reporters to events where the press are admitted. This includes reporters who seek answers to questions the administration would rather avoid, including questions about potential wrongdoing or abuse of authority.

Sincerely yours,

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination
Committee (ADC)
American Booksellers Association
American Society of Journalists and Authors
(ASJA)
The Authors Guild
Defending Rights and Dissent
Demand Progress
DKT Liberty Project
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Free Press
Free Speech Coalition
Global Witness

Liberty Coalition
Media Freedom Foundation
Media Law Resource Center (MLRC)
National Immigration Project of the
National Lawyers Guild
National Coalition Against Censorship
(NCAC)
Open the Government
People For the American Way
PEN America
Project Censored
Sunlight Foundation
Tully Center for Free Speech