

STEVE COHEN  
9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

2404 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265  
FAX: (202) 225-5663

CLIFFORD DAVIS/ODELL HORTON  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
167 NORTH MAIN STREET  
SUITE 369  
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131  
FAX: (901) 544-4329

[www.cohen.house.gov](http://www.cohen.house.gov)

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4209

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June 12, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

I am seriously concerned about a recent press report concerning an annual charity event hosted by the Eric Trump Foundation for the benefit of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. The report suggests that donors may have been misled, the event may have been used as a pass through to convert charitable donations to the Donald J. Trump Foundation into revenue for Donald Trump's private businesses, and the event may have been used as a vehicle to profit Donald Trump's private businesses.<sup>1</sup>

According to the report, the use of the Trump National Westchester golf club was initially donated. However, around the time that Trump National Westchester began charging for the use of its facilities, the Donald J. Trump Foundation donated \$100,000 to the Eric Trump Foundation, "a gift explicitly made, according to [membership and marketing director at Trump National Westchester Ian] Gillule, to offset the increased budget."<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, according to the report, expenses for the annual event began to dramatically escalate. The expenses went from \$59,000 in 2012 to \$230,000 in 2013, \$242,000 in 2014 and \$322,000 in 2015 – an amount that neither Forbes Magazine nor an employee who worked at the golf club could explain given the parameters of the event.<sup>3</sup>

The report also noted a shift in control of the Eric Trump Foundation around the same time that expenses began to escalate. In 2010, four of the original seven board members, "were eventually

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danalexander/2017/06/06/how-donald-trump-shifted-kids-cancer-charity-money-into-his-business/#2bb12ee86b4a>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danalexander/2017/06/06/how-donald-trump-shifted-kids-cancer-charity-money-into-his-business/#2bb12ee86b4a>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danalexander/2017/06/06/how-donald-trump-shifted-kids-cancer-charity-money-into-his-business/#2bb12ee86b4a>

replaced by 14 new board members, the majority of whom owed all or much of their livelihoods to the Trump Organization.”<sup>4</sup>

In addition, the report states that starting in 2011, the Eric Trump Foundation redirected more than \$500,000 to other charities, “many of which were personal favorites of Trump family members and several of which had nothing to do with children’s cancer – but happened to become clients of Trump’s golf courses.”<sup>5</sup>

I urge you to investigate to determine whether federal laws have been violated.

Thank you for your assistance.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danalexander/2017/06/06/how-donald-trump-shifted-kids-cancer-charity-money-into-his-business/#2bb12ee86b4a>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danalexander/2017/06/06/how-donald-trump-shifted-kids-cancer-charity-money-into-his-business/#2bb12ee86b4a>