MEMO

FROM: Brian Fallon, Hillary for America National Press Secretary

TO: Friends and Allies **DATE:** April 21, 2015

RE: What We Already Know About 'Clinton Cash': Book and Author

Attacking Hillary Clinton Widely Discredited

By now, you may have heard about the yet-to-be-released book attacking Hillary Clinton by a conservative writer and activist. We wanted to share with you what we have learned about this book, the author and the false accusations he's making so that you can help us shed light on the truth and debunk the myths.

First, it goes without saying that the Clintons are rightfully proud of the critical work done by the Clinton Foundation. It is a world-class philanthropy that has helped millions of people around the world tackle issues from HIV/AIDS to children's health to climate change. It is sad, but not surprising, that their philanthropic work has become the subject of false, right-wing attacks.

The book was backed by a Koch Brothers-linked organization and a billionaire family that is bankrolling Ted Cruz's presidential campaign.

- According to National Memo, "Schweizer's forthcoming book on Bill and Hillary Clinton and the Clinton Foundation was supported by a 'think-tank' called the Government Accountability Institute, which has reportedly received millions from Koch-connected donor funds over the past two years."
 - Schweizer is president of the Government Accountability Institute, according to the organization's website.
- According to Media Matters for America, "Discredited Clinton Cash author Peter Schweizer is the president of the Government Accountability Institute (GAI), a conservative group with close ties to a billionaire family funding Sen. Ted Cruz's presidential run. GAI has also received substantial support from groups backed by Charles and David Koch."

The author has coordinated with Republicans, including presidential candidate Rand Paul, ahead of the book's launch. It appears he did not brief any Democrats.

According to ABC News, at least two senators on the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee - Bob Corker & Rand Paul – "were briefed on the Clinton Cash book before its release."

- As early as April 8, Rand Paul was on CNN touting the book and suggesting he had access to it.
- According to Politico, Rand Paul is using the book as a means for gathering voter information for his campaign.
 - Senator Barbara Boxer, the longest currently serving member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, confirmed that she knew of no Democrats on the committee being similarly briefed:

"Today's New York Times reported that members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were briefed on the latest anti-Hillary Clinton book. As the longest serving member of the Committee, I was never briefed on the book and I know of no other Democrats on the Committee who were briefed on it. So if there was a briefing, it was clearly partisan in nature. This is just another vicious, partisan and unfounded attack on Hillary Clinton." [Sen. Boxer, 4/20/15]

The book's reporting -- as well as the author -- is already being discredited. The book relies on distortions of widely available data that the Clinton Foundation already makes public on its own. The author attempts to repackage and twist these previously known facts into absurd conspiracy theories.

According to ThinkProgress, Schweizer relies on a two year-old fake TD Bank press release to support one of his attacks:

"Schweizer also fingers Bill Clinton's speaking fees, a favorite target in conservative circles, as a potential avenue to influence Hillary. He links the timing of the State Department's generally positive report on the Keystone XL Pipeline with a slew of Clinton speeches paid for by TD Bank, a major shareholder in the project. As proof of how crucial Clinton's support for the pipeline was to the bank, Schweizer quotes a press release that claimed TD Bank would 'begin selling its \$1.6 billion worth of shares in the massive but potentially still-born Keystone XL crude pipeline project' after Clinton left office. The press release was quickly revealed to be fake in 2013. Yet Schweizer, apparently unaware of the hoax, remarks, 'Too bad for TD Bank. But the Clintons got paid regardless.'" [ThinkProgress, 4/21/15]

- ThinkProgress reports: "Schweizer explains he cannot prove the allegations, leaving that up to investigative journalists and possibly law enforcement."
- Media Matters for America has a rundown of "Clinton Cash Author Peter Schweizer's Long History Of Errors, Retractions, And Questionable Sourcing."

These types of books are standard fare in political campaigns now, and this one is clearly part of a coordinated Republican strategy. But this is not the first work of partisan-fueled fiction about Hillary Clinton's record, and we know it will not be the last.

While Republicans focus their efforts on attacks, Hillary Clinton is going to continue to focus on how to help everyday Americans get ahead and stay ahead. That's what her campaign is about, and no book -- especially one as discredited as this one -- is going to change that.