

# Sally Yates testifies in front of the Senate, exposes a lack of urgency regarding Flynn

## Key takeaways from Sally Yates's Senate testimony

Key Takeaway	Background
<i>1. Yates's testimony causes trouble for the White House</i>	Yates's account focused on two meetings with White House Counsel Don McGahn in late January where she highlighted the dangers pertaining to then-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. She believed that Flynn had misled senior officials in the administration about the nature of his communications with the Russian ambassador to the United States. While White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said that Yates's warnings were received as a casual "heads up," Yates characterized her desire for meeting as "a matter of some urgency."
<i>2. Trump's travel ban still has a long fight ahead</i>	Yates engaged in a heated exchange with Ted Cruz over Trump's travel ban when the senator asked if she was familiar with a certain part of the Immigration and Nationality Act that gives the president broad authority to decide who can enter the US. Yates stated that she was familiar with the act as well as a statute that outlaws discrimination in immigration matters on the basis of race or nation of birth.
<i>3. While the testimony was not good for Trump, there were no damaging surprises</i>	There was no surprise "smoking gun" uncovered that would damage President Trump. Instead, McGahn is now in hot water as Yates mentioned that the White House counsel had not told her during their second meeting whether he had informed Trump of the issues raised in their first encounter.
<i>4. Speculation about Yates running for office is likely to grow</i>	Liberals praised Yates's testimony on social media and focused on her clash with Ted Cruz and her bluntness regarding the seriousness of the situation. While it is unknown if Yates wants to run for political office, her testimony elevated her name among liberals and established a base of support that could be useful in the future.

Sources: Niall Stanage, "Five takeaways from Yates's dramatic Senate testimony," The Hill, May 8, 2017.