

OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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An article entitled, "Trump Invokes Kirk's Killing in Justifying Measures to Silence Opponents," Sept. 17, 2025, <i>The New York Times</i>	
An article entitled, "F.B.I. Dismantles Elite Public Corruption Squad," May 15, 2025, <i>The New York Times</i>	
A letter to the Honorable Pamela J. Bondi, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, and the Honorable Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, from the Members of Congress, Aug. 28, 2025	
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An investigations document of Arctic Frost (Not available at the time of publication.)	
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An article entitled, "FBI Flooded with Record Number of New Agent Applications." (Not available at the time of publication.)	
An article entitled, "Review of domestic terrorism after Kirk's murder shows Biden politicized issue, intel, fudged data," Sept. 17, 2025, <i>Just the News</i> (Not available at the time of publication.)	
An article entitled, "Democrat Running for Attorney General Issues Profanity Laced Charlie Kirk Post." (Not available at the time of publication.)	
An article entitled, "Cleveland Fire Chief Removed from Duty Over Incendiary Charlie Kirk Social Media Post." (Not available at the time of publication.)	
An article entitled, "Generic Combinations of Political Violence Won't Stop the Left from Escalating It." (Not available at the time of publication.)	
An article entitled, "2 weeks before Charlie Kirk was assassinated," <i>CNN</i> (Not available at the time of publication.)	

- Materials submitted by the Honorable Thomas Massie, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Kentucky, for the record
- An article entitled, “Jeffrey Epstein’s Sick Story Played Out for Years in Plain Sight,” Jul. 9 2019, *Daily Beast* (Not available at the time of publication.)
 - An article entitled, “What Epstein’s Body Guard Warned About His CIA Connections,” Aug. 21, 2025, *The Tara Palmeri Show* (Not available at the time of publication.)
 - An article entitled, “What Epstein’s Body Guard Warned About His CIA Connections.” (Not available at the time of publication.)
 - An article entitled, “Epstein’s Private Calendar Reveals Planned Meetings with Obama Admin Official, CIA Chief,” *FOX Digital* (Not available at the time of publication.)
 - An article that highlights Ehud Barak’s 36 meetings with Jeffrey Epstein, *Wall Street Journal* (Not available at the time of publication.)
 - A series of emails from the victims of Jeffrey Epstein (Not available at the time of publication.)
 - Search warrant that was served on James O’Keefe for a diary that he had already given to the government two months before (Not available at the time of publication.)
- Material submitted by the Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Maryland, for the record
- A Decision & Order, *U.S. v. Epstein*, 19 CR 490, Aug. 20, 2025, United States District Court, Southern District of New York
 - An Opinion from the *United States of America v. Ghislaine Maxwell*, Aug. 11, 2025, United States District Court, Southern District of New York
 - An report entitled, “Murder and Extremism in the United States in 2024,” Feb. 21, 2025, *ADL Center on Extremism (COE)*
 - An article entitled, “Timeline suggests Trump team changed its tune on Epstein files after Trump was told he was in them,” Jul. 24, 2025, *CNN*
- Materials submitted by the Honorable Daniel S. Goldman, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of New York, for the record
- A memo from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Jul. 7, 2025
 - An article entitled, “‘Historical loss’: Alleged gang leader evades US justice with deportation to El Salvador,” Mar. 24, 2025, *CNN*
 - A report entitled, “A Review of the Department of Justice’s Issuance of Compulsory Process to Obtain Records of Members of Congress, Congressional Staffers, and Members of the News Media,” Dec. 2024, *Oversight and Review Division, U.S. Department of Justice*
- Materials submitted by the Honorable Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr., a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Georgia, for the record
- An article entitled, “DOJ Deletes Study Showing Domestic Terrorists Are Most Often Right Wing,” Sept. 16, 2025, *404 Media*
 - A letter to the former President Joseph R. Biden, from the Honorable Senator Tom Cotton, Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence from the State of Arkansas, Jul. 10, 2024
 - A letter to the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt Chancellor of the Exchequer HM Treasury, from Senator Marco Rubio, Secretary of State from the State of Florida, Jun. 10, 2024
 - An article entitled, “Crime Is Down in 2025. Trump Doesn’t Deserve Credit,” Jun. 20, 2025, *Vera Institute*
 - An report entitled, “GOP vows to make America safe again. Statistics contradict their growing crime claims,” Jul. 17, 2024, *NPR*
 - An report entitled, “REPORT: Record-Low Crime During the Biden–Harris Administration,” Jan. 17, 2025, *The American Presidency Project*
 - An article entitled, “Joe Biden is correct that violent crime is near a 50-year low,” May 28, 2024, *PolitiFact*
 - A press release entitled, “FBI Releases 2024 Reported Crimes in the Nation Statistics,” Aug. 5, 2025, *FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division*

- Materials submitted by the Honorable J. Luis Correa, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of California, for the record
- An article entitled, “Trump’s deportations divert FBI agents off child predator cases,” Sept. 16, 2025, *MSNBC*
 - An article entitled, “FBI director backtracks on administration’s proposed budget cuts,” May 8, 2025, *The Center Square*
 - An article entitled, “Trump Admin Says 70% of ICE Detainees Do Not Have Criminal Convictions,” Aug. 29, 2025, *Newsweek*
- Materials submitted by the Honorable Chip Roy, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Texas, for the record
- A report entitled, “Outsourcing Justice: How donors and activists control progressive prosecutors and corrupt the criminal justice system from within,” 2025, *Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund (LELDF)*
 - A list provided by the Center for Immigration Studies (NGOs), 2024, *Center for Immigration Studies*
 - A letter to the Honorable Jim Jordan, Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Ohio, the Honorable Mike Johnson from the State of Louisiana, and the Honorable James Comer, Chair, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, from the 33 Members of Congress, Sept. 11, 2025
- Materials submitted by the Honorable Pramila Jayapal, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Washington, for the record
- An article entitled, “Justice Department Told Trump in May That His Name Is Among Many in the Epstein Files,” Jul. 23, 2025, *The Wall Street Journal*
 - An article entitled, “How a Frantic Scouring of the Epstein Files Consumed the Justice Dept.,” Jul. 24, 2025, *The New York Times*
 - An article entitled, “Ghislaine Maxwell hinted at Epstein’s ties to Trump officials—why wasn’t she pressed for names?” Aug. 31, 2025, *The Guardian*
- Materials submitted by the Honorable Mary Gay Scanlon, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Pennsylvania, for the record
- An article entitled, “Bank of America Flagged Suspicious Payments to Epstein Only After He Died,” Dec. 13, 2024, *The New York Times*
 - An article entitled, “Dem Sen. Ron Wyden claims ‘big’ Epstein file ‘full of actionable information’ locked in Treasury Department drawer,” Jul. 17, 2025, *New York Post*
 - An article entitled, “Deutsche Bank agrees to pay \$75m to settle Jeffrey Epstein lawsuit,” May 18, 2023, *The Guardian*
 - An article entitled, “JPMorgan processed over \$1B for Jeffrey Epstein despite internal concerns over sex offender status: report,” Sept. 10, 2025, *Fox Business*
 - An article entitled, “DOJ Quietly Deletes Study on Politics of Domestic Terrorism,” Sept. 16, 2025, *The New Republic*
 - An article entitled, “DOJ quietly removes study showing right wing attacks ‘outpace’ those by left,” Sept. 17, 2025, *The Hill*
- Materials submitted by the Honorable Sydney Kamlager-Dove, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of California, for the record
- An article entitled, “White supremacist group stands by racist ideology,” Jun. 24, 2015, *CNN*
 - An article entitled, “Dylann Roof, the Radicalization of the Alt Right, and Ritualized Racial Violence: Ritualized racial violence,” Jan. 12, 2017, *University of Chicago Divinity School*
 - An article entitled, “How Robert Bowers went from conservative to white nationalist,” Nov. 10, 2018, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
 - An article entitled, “Walmart gunman attacked El Paso ‘because that’s what his president was telling him,’ defense attorney says,” Mar. 30, 2025, *El Paso Matters*
 - An article entitled, “Buffalo shooting: How far-right killers are radicalised online,” May 17, 2022, *BBC*

Materials submitted by the Honorable Sydney Kamlager-Dove, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of California, for the record—Continued

An article entitled, “Evergreen High School Shooter’s Online Activity Reveals Fascination with Mass Shootings, White Supremacy,” Sept. 12, 2025, *Anti-Defamation League (ADL)*

A report entitled, “Murder and Extremism in the United States in 2024,” Feb. 21, 2025, *Anti-Defamation League (ADL)*

A report entitled, “Domestic Radicalization and Violent Extremism: An Overview of NIJ’s Research Portfolio,” Jan. 2, 2024, *National Institute of Justice (NIJ)*

An report entitled, “Politically Motivated Violence Is Rare in the United States,” Sept. 11, 2025, *CATO Institute*

Materials submitted by the Honorable Lucy McBath, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Georgia, for the record

An article entitled, “Exclusive: FBI scales back staffing, tracking of domestic terrorism probes, sources say,” Mar. 21, 2025, *Reuters*

An article entitled, “Exclusive: Thousands of agents diverted to Trump immigration crackdown,” Mar. 22, 2025, *Reuters*

An article entitled, “The F.B.I. Is Using Polygraphs to Test Officials’ Loyalty,” Jul. 10, 2025, *The New York Times*

An article entitled, “Kash Patel knowingly broke law when firing top officials, lawsuit alleges,” Sept. 10, 2025, *MSNBC*

An article entitled, “Senior FBI official who resisted Trump demands is ousted,” Aug. 7, 2025, *AP News*

Materials submitted by the Honorable Jasmine Crockett, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Texas, for the record

An article entitled, “Ken Buck one of multiple Republicans receiving death threats for voting against Rep. Jim Jordan as House Speaker,” Oct. 19, 2023, *Colorado Public Radio (CPR)*

An article entitled, “GOP lawmaker says she’s received death threats over Speaker vote,” Oct. 18, 2023, *The Hill*

An article entitled, “Rep. Bacon says his wife slept with loaded gun after ‘ugly phone calls’ over his Speaker vote,” Oct. 19, 2023, *The Hill*

An article entitled, “Russia’s ‘Ghostwriter’ hacker group takes aim at German election,” Sept. 21, 2021, *Politico*

An FPC Briefing entitled, “30 Days Until Election 2024: Electron Security Update as of Early October 2024,” Oct. 7, 2024, *Office of the Director of National Intelligence*

An article entitled, “How Russia is using artificial intelligence to interfere in elections,” Season 2024, Episode 249, Sept. 4, 2024, *PBS NewsHour*

An article entitled, “Russian Interference: Coming Soon to an Election Near You,” Feb. 13, 2025, *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

A letter entitled, “FBIAA Letter to Congress on Summary Terminations,” to the Honorable Jim Jordan Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Ohio, the Honorable Charles Grassley Chair of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Iowa, the Honorable Jamie Raskin Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Maryland, and the Honorable Richard Durbin Ranking Member of Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Illinois, from Federal Bureau of Investigation Agents Association (FBIAA), Aug. 21, 2025

An article entitled, “FBI agents are again pulled from their day jobs to address a Trump priority,” Aug. 14, 2025, *CNN*

Materials submitted by the Honorable Jesús G. “Chuy” García, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Illinois, for the record

An article entitled, “ICE Has Diverted Over 25,000 Officers from Their Jobs,” Sept. 3, 2025, *CATO Institute Blog*

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Materials submitted by the Honorable Jesús G. “Chuy” García, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Illinois, for the record—Continued

An article entitled, “Trump’s deportations divert FBI agents off child predator cases,” Sept. 16, 2025, *MSNBC*

An article entitled, “White House pressure for increased immigration arrests strains law enforcement agencies,” May 29, 2025, *CNN*

Materials submitted by the Honorable Robert F. Onder, Jr., a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Missouri, for the record

An article entitled, “Massive crime drop in DC—city sees zero murder week,” Aug. 25, 2025, *The Hill* (Not available at the time of publication.)

An article entitled, “Man Who Set Fire to Shapiro’s Mansion Cited Treatment of Palestinians, Police Say,” Apr. 18, 2025, *The New York Times* (Not available at the time of publication.)

APPENDIX

Materials submitted by the Honorable Andy Biggs, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Arizona, for the record

Thirty articles so I will just submit those later (Not available at the time of publication.)

Materials submitted by the Honorable Lucy McBath, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Georgia, for the record

An article entitled, “Exclusive: FBI scales back staffing, tracking of domestic terrorism probes, sources say,” Mar. 21, 2025, *Reuters*

An article entitled, “Exclusive: Thousands of agents diverted to Trump immigration crackdown,” Mar. 22, 2025, *Reuters*

A letter to the Hon. Kristi Noem, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Hon. Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, from America’s Communications Association (ACA), The Rural Broadband Association (NTCA), The Internet & Television Association (NITA), The Broadband Association (USTelecom), July 30, 2025, submitted by the Honorable Laurel M. Lee, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Florida, for the record

An article entitled, “Walmart gunman attacked El Paso ‘because that’s what his president was telling him,’ defense attorney says,” Mar. 30, 2025, *El Paso Matters*, submitted by the Honorable Sydney Kamlager-Dove, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of California, for the record

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES, FOR THE RECORD

Questions for the Hon. Kash P. Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, submitted by the Honorable Brad Knott, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of North Carolina; the Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Maryland; and the Honorable Jared Moskowitz, a Member of the Committee on the Judiciary from the State of Florida, for the record (No response at the time of publication)

VOTES

- RC 1—Vote on Motion to Table: Ayes, 20; Nays 19
- RC 2—Vote on Motion to Table: Ayes, 23; Nays 16
- RC 3—Vote on Motion to Table: Ayes, 21; Nays 16
- RC 4—Vote on Motion to Table: Ayes, 21; Nays 16

OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Washington, DC

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in Room 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, the Hon. Jim Jordan [Chair of the Committee] presiding.

Members present: Representatives Jordan, Issa, Biggs, McClintock, Tiffany, Massie, Roy, Fitzgerald, Cline, Gooden, Van Drew, Nehls, Moore, Kiley, Hageman, Lee, Hunt, Fry, Grothman, Knott, Harris, Onder, Schmidt, Gill, Baumgartner, Raskin, Nadler, Lofgren, Cohen, Johnson, Swalwell, Lieu, Jayapal, Correa, Scanlon, Neguse, McBath, Ross, Balint, Garcia, Kamlager-Dove, Moskowitz, Goldman, and Crockett.

Chair JORDAN. The Committee will come to order. Without objection, the Chair is authorized to declare a recess at any time.

We welcome everyone to today's hearing on Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This is the first occasion for the Committee to get back together since the tragic death of Charlie Kirk. Charlie was a good man, a happy warrior who fought for principles and guys, make our country special and certainly was a strong proponent of defending the first amendment, something this Committee cares deeply about. I said this over the weekend. I think Charlie lived with that scripture verse 2, Timothy 4:7, "Fight the good fight. Finish the course. Keep the faith." Charlie certainly lived that, and he did it with a smile on his face. The tragic killing happened a week ago while we were in markup here in the Committee. I know everyone, I know the witness was a friend of Charlie's and I know many people on the dais were as well. I know we are all praying for Charlie's family and I would extend a moment to the Ranking Member if you wanted to say something.

Mr. RASKIN. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for saying that. The whole country reacted with horror and shock to the brutal assassination of Charlie Kirk in cold blood. There is never any warrant for political violence in America and just as we all recoil together at the shocking assassination of Melissa Hortman and others who died in that Minnesota attack, we all stand together categorically against political violence in America and determined to end these cycles of political violence that are traumatizing the country.

Chair JORDAN. Well said. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Kansas, Mr. Schmidt, to lead us all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALL. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Chair JORDAN. As is customary, we will begin with opening statements. Five weeks ago, because of the work of Director Patel, we learned that the former Chair of the House Intelligence Committee and current United States Senator leaked classified information. We learned this because a whistleblower came forward, a whistleblower with 23 years' experience in the intelligence community. A Democrat staffer on the Committee said this, "They were pressured to leak classified information." Which sort of raises the obvious question. Why would the head of the Intelligence Committee, the Chair of that Committee, who is supposed to be guarding our secrets, why would he be encouraging the leaking of classified information? The whistleblower told us that answer as well. The leaked information was supposed to be used, the leaked information, false information, was going to be used to indict President Trump.

Now, the former Chair wasn't the only person leaking information. Jim Comey was also sharing things he wasn't supposed to share. Again, don't take my word for it. The Inspector General told us this. In his report he said, "James Comey violated FBI policy by disclosing classified information." What was Comey's motive? Same as the Senator from California to sabotage and undermine President Trump's first term. We know that Mr. Comey has not been shy about what his objective was. In fact, four months ago, he told us. Remember this? 8647. Jim Comey told us. Just four months ago. Now, how did they do it? How did the former Chair of the Intel Committee, the former FBI Director, and others in our government attempt to undermine President Trump's first term?

Seven weeks ago, because of the good work of the Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, we learned from another whistleblower, a second whistleblower that in the closing days in the Obama Administration, the intelligence community assessment was changed. On December 5, 2016, we had one assessment. That assessment said, "Russia did not impact the election vote count." There was a meeting at the White House on December 9, 2016, where it was decided no, no, no. We are not going to have that. We are going to come up with a new one. The new one said that Russia was trying to influence election and did influence election which just wasn't accurate. That new one is published on January 6, 2017.

Let's just show you a few things that took place. I want to show you this email from Admiral Rogers, the head of the NSA. You can see it was December 22nd. It says to Jim, John, and Jim: Jim Clapper, John Brennan, and Jim Comey. He says, "I asked my team if they have had sufficient access to the underlying intelligence, sufficient time to review that intelligence." On both points, my team raised concern. Further states, "my folks aren't fully comfortable." A few hours later, there is an email back to Admiral Rogers. This one is from Jim Clapper, and it says this, "It is essential that we be on the same page and all of us are supportive of the report in

the highest tradition of that is our story and we are sticking to it. We may have to compromise on our normal modality. This is one project that has to be a team sport. That is our story, and we are sticking to it.” Compromise on normal modalities, that is a fancy way of saying, that is a government speaking for we are going to have to change the rules. In fact, we are not going to follow our own rules and that is exactly what they did, to get the objective they wanted to, undermine President Trump.

Now, how did this specifically take place? The whistleblower said that the government officials ignored concerns about discredited information. What was that discredited information? What was the discredited information that they didn’t ignore the concerns about? What did they use that discredited information? Of course, it was the dossier, the now famous Steel Dossier that was paid for by the Clinton campaign when they hired the law firm Perkins Hughley who hired Fusion GPS, who hired the foreigner, Christopher Steel, who wrote all this garbage and lies down. That is what was used to change the intelligence community report.

What happens next? What did Jim, John, and Jim do next? They go to Trump Tower on January 6, 2017, to brief then President-Elect Trump about the dossier. Again, that Clinton financed, or an authored dossier that the whistleblower knows is garbage and that they know is garbage. Then, there is one final step, one final step. Jim Comey leaves that meeting with the President and immediately leaks to the press that they have briefed the President on the discredited information. They briefed the President on the dossier and thereby giving it some credibility and creating a basis and a predicate for all they did to the President. They leaked false information. They leaked classified information. They used and leaked discredited information, and they didn’t follow their own rules, all to sabotage President Trump’s first term.

For this guy, Kash Patel, but for this guy, we would never have known this information. The good people of this great country would not have known what took place eight years ago when they were trying to undermine the guy elected by “We the People.” I want to thank Attorney General Bondi. She set up a special strike force, a special team to look into this and see if there is any criminal liability that existed in what took place.

Now, in addition to getting the truth to the people, Director Patel is getting the bad guys off the street. He has moved agents out of Washington, got the focus off politics here in D.C., and is instead putting bad guys behind bars. Twenty-one thousand violent criminals have been taken off the streets which is 125 percent increase from the comparable period in the previous administration. He has rescued 4,000 kids. He has got 1,300 predators who he has arrested. He has also ended the weaponization of the FBI. No more spying on parents at school board meetings. No more predawn raids on prolife Catholics. No more retaliation against whistleblowers. He has given us information that Chris Ray didn’t. Maybe said better, he has given us information that Chris Ray wouldn’t. Director Ray didn’t tell us that there were 26 confidential human sources at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. Even though he was repeatedly asked about that by Members of this Committee. Director Ray didn’t tell us that there were 17 of those confidential human

sources who entered restricted space forward in the Capitol, none of them were arrested. They weren't authorized to do that. They broke the law. None of them were arrested. Lots of American citizens were arrested, but the guys whose American tax dollars was used to pay these guys who broke the law, none of them—one was recommended for charging and was not charged.

Remember when Chris Ray told us that the Richmond Field Office memorandum on prolife Catholics was just a one off? Turns out he wasn't being square with us then either. Director Ray wasn't square with us. He told us that multiple other offices were involved in targeting the Catholics. We got that information from Director Patel. We learned from Director Patel the FBI actually surveilled a priest, tried to get the priest to divulge information, break the priest's penitent relationship and confidence that exists. Director Patel is saving taxpayers' money. Not going to build a new headquarters outside of D.C. He is going to keep the headquarters right here in the capital city, save Americans money, save the taxpayers money. In eight months, in eight months, Director Patel has given us the facts. He has ended the weaponization at the FBI. He has taken bad guys off the streets, and he is saving taxpayers money.

My guess is the Democrats won't focus on all that good news. They will focus on politics. They will stick with Comey, Clapper, and Brennan and continue to try to undermine President Trump. With that, I yield to the Ranking Member for an opening statement.

Mr. RASKIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and welcome Director Patel. You and I have not had the opportunity to meet and alas, you have failed to respond to the eight oversight letters I have sent you over the last seven months, so we do have a lot of questions piling up for you. I want to start with a word of praise. The first FBI Director of J. Edgar Hoover who steadfastly refused to hire women, African Americans, and other minorities as agents and although he was a closeted homosexual who lived in domestic partnership for decades with Clyde Tolsen, he also participated in antigay crusades. He aggressively promoted what we would today call White Christian Nationalism, and he would undoubtedly be turning over his grave to see as one of his successors, a first generation Indian-American and a proud Hindu. I graduate you on being a breakthrough in this sense and being a beneficiary of the civil rights movement that opened the FBI and the Federal workforce to lots of people who never would have been hired in its first decades.

Alas, you share J. Edgar Hoover's dangerous obsession with blind loyalty over professionalism and effective public policy. For Hoover, it was blind loyalty to him in keeping his secrets. For you, it is blind loyalty to Donald Trump in keeping his secrets. During your confirmation, it was widely noted on all sides that your primary qualification was your unwavering loyalty to Trump. Unlike other directors, you had no work experience at the FBI, but you had made over a thousand media and political appearances in support of Trump's campaign. Your Senate confirmation vote was 51-49, the closest in history, with your opponents warning you were not qualified and had no interest in actually developing the qualifica-

tions for the job. I hoped that they were wrong. Alas, they were not.

While most other new FBI directors drew on their experience as FBI agents, you didn't have that, but you did write a picture book trilogy for children ages five and up based on your experience clashing with President Trump's political enemies. In your book, you describe your literary alter ego, Kash the Knight, as a wacky, easily bored wizard carrying out King Donald's vengeance by driving his enemies out of the kingdom. In the books, King Donald is besieged by the evil Hilary Queentown, but saved in the end by Kash. Then, Kash goes on to catch mules who are stealing the 2020 election for the great King Donald from Sleepy Joe. Then, in the third book, Kash takes down the Dragon of the Jalapenos nicknamed the DOJ.

Your supporters had hoped that you would graduate from imagining yourself a romantic, fairytale knight to actually running America's premiere Federal law enforcement agency. Alas, just as we have learned how dangerous it is to put a science-denying, anti-vaxxer in charge of our public health, we have learned how dangerous it is to name as Director of the FBI a man who thinks of himself as a fairytale knight who keeps a fire-breathing dragon named DOJ at home to forcibly drive villains out of the kingdom.

When Charlie Kirk was assassinated, while his killer was still on the loose, you decided you didn't need to be at FBI headquarters in Washington to work with your team while the chaotic manhunt unfolded. You spent your evening dining in a swanky midtown Manhattan restaurant and tweeting out false information that the subject of the shooting was in custody, a statement you had to retract one hour later. Your performance was so disturbing that even the MAGA base was alarmed. Culture warrior Christopher Rufo, who just a few months ago sat in your Chair as a Republican witness, observed that you performed terribly and he called for your ouster. The FBI might be able to survive your delusions of grandeur and the explosively volatile temper that was display yesterday in the Senate, but the intractable problem is that you are running the FBI not as a law enforcement agency, charged with keeping the American people safe, but as a political enforcement agency working directly for the President's vengeance campaign.

Seven months in, it is impossible to overstate the destruction, chaos, and demoralization you have brought to the FBI and its workforce and the resulting danger your actions have caused to our country. You have been systematically purging the FBI of its most experienced and qualified agents, division leaders, and experts in counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and cybersecurity, precisely the people who have the expertise you lack in which the FBI and the country need. They have been expelled from the ranks of the Bureau, simply because they did their duty investigating crimes including those committed by the mob that attacked the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and beat the hell out of more than 140 police officers or simply because you suspected them of being insufficiently loyal to Donald Trump.

You illegally sacked Brian Driscoll, the former Acting Director of the Bureau and a decorated counterterrorism expert, who worked at the FBI for nearly 20 years. According to Driscoll, you

told him your own job, “Depended on the removal of agents who worked on cases against the President regardless of whether the agents chose to work on those cases or not.” You added “The FBI tried to put the President in jail, and he hasn’t forgotten it.”

You forced out the leader of the Salt Lake City Field Office, Mehtab Syed, just weeks before Charlie Kirk’s assassination depriving the FBI of an experienced, counterterrorism expert described by her colleagues as absolutely the best and legendary. She would have led the FBI’s manhunt had she not been fired.

When Trump decided that rounding immigrants with no criminal records was more important than preventing crimes like human trafficking of women and girls, drug dealing, terrorism and fraud, you ordered the 25 largest field offices to divert thousands of agents away from chasing down violent criminals, sex traffickers, fraudsters, and scammers, to carry out this immigration crack-down.

Director Patel, you treated the men and women of the FBI with disrespect and paranoia. You have assembled a roving band of freelancing henchmen within your office and charged them with conducting unauthorized investigations, targeting, and harassing career FBI employees. Amazingly, you forced senior leadership to repeatedly take polygraph tests to prove their political loyalty and pushed out leaders who refused these demeaning exercises. Now, we are seeing one very clear reason why you want to build a political FBI, the Epstein files. You want an FBI blindly loyal to Trump and to you, as his enforcer, so you can continue your cover up of a massive international sex trafficking ring with more than one thousand victims betraying all the survivors of the sexual violence.

Before you got in this job, you called for full release of Epstein files, telling podcaster Benny Johnson that the only reason the list was not released by DOJ and FBI was “because of who is on that list.” On your confirmation, you promised that, “There will be no cover ups, no missing documents, no stone left unturned and anyone from the prior or current Bureau who undermines this will be swiftly pursued.” This spring, you ordered hundreds of agents to pore over all the Epstein files, but not to look for more clues about the money network or the network of human traffickers. You pulled these agents from their regular counterterrorism or drug trafficking duties to work around the clock, some of them sleeping at their desks to conduct a frantic search to make sure Donald Trump’s name and image were flagged and redacted wherever they appeared, whether an email, a text, a letter, an interview, photograph, or a video.

In May, Attorney General Bondi reportedly told Trump that his name had indeed appeared multiple times throughout the Epstein files and not long thereafter in July, you and the Attorney General released a memo claiming that “no further disclosure would be appropriate or warranted.” In the few short months, how did you go from being a crusader for accountability and transparency to the Epstein files to being a part of the conspiracy and cover up? The answer is simple; you said it yourself because of who is on that list. Donald Trump’s relationship with Epstein over the years is well documented.

A week ago, the Oversight Committee released Trump's disturbing Birthday Book, a note to Epstein, written over a drawing of a woman's naked body referring to a quote, "wonderful secret." The Oversight Committee obtained the note from the Epstein estate, not from the FBI, raising questions again of whether the FBI has been withholding documents.

While you are unleashing the FBI to cater to Trump's desire to shut down the Epstein inquiry, the first nine months of the Trump Presidency have seen a spate of political violence and domestic terror events. We saw deadly attacks on political figures on both the Left and the Right: The brutal assassination of Minnesota Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, and the attempted murder of Democratic State Senator John Hauffman and his wife who miraculously survived a combined 17 gunshots. We saw an arsonist set Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's residence on fire. Of course, last week, we saw the horrific cold blooded assassination of Charlie Kirk in Utah that has shaken the Nation. One minute after Charlie Kirk was shot in the neck, a 16-year-old shooter in Evergreen, Colorado, radicalized by White Supremacist ideology online open fired and critically wounded two other students at Evergreen High School. We have seen lethal anti-Semitic violence including the murder of two Israeli embassy staffers just blocks from the Capitol, and then in the attack on a gathering of Jewish people in support of hostages held in Gaza in Boulder in June.

We have seen continued mass shootings at schools like the domestic terror incident at a Catholic school in Minneapolis last month which killed two children and wounded 18 others. In August, a man fired more than 500 bullets at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, killing a police officer who was a Marine veteran and a father. People like Melissa Hortman and Charlie Kirk should be able to participate in politics as elected officials or active citizens without being shot down in cold blood in the United States of America. People should also be able to go to elementary school, the middle school, to high school, to work, to the mall, and to church without being shot down in explosions of gun violence.

The important position of the FBI requires a leader who puts public safety and national security and the rule of law first. I am afraid, Director Patel, you have given us reason to believe you use the powers of the FBI to serve Donald Trump and his agenda of partisan retribution. You have broken your promise not to do that. You have betrayed Jeffrey Epstein's victims and survivors. You have turned your back on the career law enforcement officers of the FBI and as a result, you have left all of us less safe than before.

Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. That statement may have been longer than any book the Director has ever written or anyone else has written. Without objection, all other opening statements will be included in the record.

We will introduce today's witness. Mr. Patel has been the Director of the FBI since February 2025. He previously served as Chief of Staff at the Department of Defense; Deputy Director of National Intelligence with the National Security Council; and also, as a Congressional Staffer; as a Federal Prosecutor where he focused on na-

tional security cases; and he also worked as a public defender in the State of Florida. We welcome our witness, appreciate his work, and thank him for appearing here today. We will begin by swearing you in.

Director, would you please stand, raise your right hand? Do you swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that the testimony you are about to give is true and correct to the best of your knowledge, information, and belief so help you God?

Let the record reflect that the witness has answered in the affirmative. You can be seated as you are. You have been through this—you have been through this yesterday. Did a fine job. Please know that your written testimony will be entered into the record in its entirety. Accordingly, we ask that you summarize your testimony.

Director, you may begin.

STATEMENT OF THE HON. KASH PATEL

Mr. PATEL. Good morning, Mr. Chair, Ranking Member Raskin, and the Members of the Committee. I want to begin today by discussing the appalling assassination of Charlie Kirk. It is important for this FBI to be transparent without jeopardizing our investigation, so a little bit of a timeline is important. Charlie Kirk was unfortunately assassinated on September 10th. We immediately, the next day, released images early in the day in local time in Utah to start the public partnership in our manhunt for the assassin and culprits. At approximately 5 p.m. local time, I arrived on the ground and walked the crime scene myself and we flew multiple FBI assets in and out to process DNA simultaneously while bringing in evidence response technicians, hostage rescue teams, and other experts to assist State and local law enforcement with their investigation.

At 8 p.m. local on September 11th, the FBI collected and populated and promulgated at a press conference a video of the suspect on the ground. We also released enhanced images. Due to that release that I directed and ordered, the suspect involved was apprehended and in custody at 10 p.m. local time. That is less than two hours after we did the video release and the photo release, so within 33 hours that individual suspect was in custody and his family who has since been interrogated specifically stated to FBI interrogators that because of the video that the FBI released at my direction and because of the photographs that they released, they identified their son. They confronted their son when he swung by their home and that is what led to his apprehension.

We are still, the FBI, have that investigation ongoing and it continues to be ongoing, and I want to thank the State of Utah and the State and local authorities there and I also want to thank the Attorney General and President Trump for directing resources to allow us to conduct that investigation as we have.

Under this administration, the FBI has arrested more than 23,000 violent criminals, 23,000 in seven months. That is twice as many year-to-date last year. We have taken over 6,000 firearms off the streets. Six thousand guns are no longer in the hands of criminals in seven months. We have identified and found and located 4,700 child victims. That is a 35 percent increase year-to-date last

year. We have arrested 1,500 child predators. That is a 10-percent increase, year-to-date last year in just seven months. We have assisted our partners with countless counterterrorism operations around the world. We have captured at the FBI four of the most top-ten wanted fugitives in the world in seven months. To put that in perspective that is as many as my predecessor nabbed the entirety of the Biden Administration. We got four. We got more coming. On top of that, in two weeks, thanks to the help of the CIA, we collected and captured one of the individuals responsible for the horrific Abbey Gate Bombing that led to the murder of 13 service members. We did that in two weeks. They didn't do it in the four-years of the entire prior administration.

Nationwide, we have been executing our Operation Summer Heat, the FBI's national focus on targeting violent crime based on intelligence-driven operations. Ask the citizens of Seattle, Miami, Memphis, Charlotte, Chicago, and New Orleans. To specifically highlight New Orleans and Nashville, there has been a 250 percent increase in violent crime arrests in those cities alone and other major cities that I have just listed.

In just a few short months, we have already unleashed a thousand FBI personnel across this country. Every single State across this country is getting a plus up. This is a fiction that the FBI is short or that we are compromising the men and women in the field. They do not need to be in Washington, DC, so we are sending them into the field to each and every one of your States. Because of that, crime is at an all-time low. We had to do it because of the explosion of crime. Maybe the most important stat for Americans for realize in just seven months, we are on track to produce the lowest murder rate in modern U.S. history by double digits. Those are results, not of mine. Those are results of the men and women of the FBI. If you want to criticize me, bring it on, but do not attack the brave leaders in the field.

We are also working 24-7-365 on the opioid epidemic that is killing more than a hundred thousand people a year. We have seized 1,600 kilograms of fentanyl off the streets so far in seven months. Year-to-date a 25 percent increase. To put that in perspective, that is enough to kill a third of the American population, 120 million Americans. One hundred thousand kilograms of cocaine and meth gone; off the streets.

Earlier this year, I highlighted Cincinnati, Ohio, how we are getting creative to chase down those that were willing to do harm to our citizens, not just by striking at the heart of the fentanyl producers, but the fentanyl precursor companies in China and we indicted for the first time multiple companies and individuals, not just in America, but in Mainland China that are producing the ingredients that produce and make fentanyl that kill our children and we are going to keep going.

Counterterrorism work, cyber-attacks, and foreign adversaries are something the FBI must never sleep on and we are not sleeping. In the counterintelligence space alone, this year, year-to-date is a 30 percent increase in counterintelligence arrests from the DPRK, Russia, Iran, and China. I want the American people to know in this setting, there is a lot of work that the brave men and

women of the FBI are doing that we just can't get into, but they don't stop.

Our cyber threats, ransomware attacks, and those harming our children online, we have nearly a 20 percent increase in indictments and arrests in seven months alone this year. We are going after those that harm our malware infrastructure systems, telecom systems, and energy structuring. Combating Salt and Volt typhoons are just a little bit of the examples we are doing. Maybe most importantly under the counterterrorism and domestic terrorism umbrella, our newest violent extremists, and those that label themselves 764 who wish to go online and convince children to maim and mutilate themselves and commit suicide and we are producing record numbers of arrests under that umbrella organization. We even stopped an individual in a 764 network who wanted to conspire to kill an adolescent girl. He is now in custody.

Transparency is one of my main priorities at the FBI and this is what I have done in my seven months at the helm. We have produced more than 33,000 of pages of documents to Congress to a variety of committees, including, I believe, 7,500 to this Committee alone, if memory serves me correct. To put the 33,000 in perspective, my predecessor in seven years produced 13,000 pages in total to the U.S. Congress. His predecessor in four years produced 3,000 pages in total. I repeat, I have produced 33,000 pages in seven years to this Congress and will continue to do so. I am dedicated to restoring the trust, the mission, and the integrity of the FBI and we cannot do so without congressional oversight, and I promise you I will continue to do so.

On the Epstein case, the original sin on the Epstein case was how it was handled by Mr. Acosta when he first brought the case in 2006, 2007, and 2008. The original case had a very limited search warrant, had a very limited search window, had a very limited investigative window. I was not there when those search warrants and that investigation were launched. I would not have done it that way. They were limited only to three or four years of investigations from 1997 to approximately 2001 and 2002–2005. Mr. Acosta allowed Mr. Epstein to enter into a plea agreement where he served week in jails for trafficking minor women. He also was allowed to leave jail to go home on the weekends, plus he allowed a nonprosecution agreement to be signed as part of that plea deal, prohibiting future investigations from that prosecution and from that evidence and prohibiting the collection of further material. That is the original sin. We are working with Congress to produce more than any administration ever has material on Epstein and I welcome the challenge to tell us that we are not being as transparent as the law allows. We even went to court and asked the judges to lift those prosecutorial agreements and to lift those court order seals, and they denied us three times. Congress is welcome to do the same and join the fight.

I would last like to focus on an operation that the President led in D.C. Because of this, we are taking this fight in D.C. to every single city across the country. Twenty-one hundred arrests in the last month alone. D.C. has seen a 60 percent decrease in gun crimes; 75 percent decrease in carjackings; and 53 percent decrease in homicides in our Nation's Capital. Rightly so, we are bringing

that fight to the streets of America. I want to thank you for your support, and I am proud to be the Director that leads this FBI into a new headquarters building that they have needed for decades, saving the taxpayer 3.5 billions of dollars and also providing our workforce a safe environment. If you don't know the calamity that is the Hoover Building, I invite each and every one of you to walk around. I will give you a tour myself and you can see where the cement falls on the heads of our employees that are only to be saved by netting just to give you an example.

Thank you for support in our mission and I do want to highlight one thing about D.C. It is because the FBI gathered sources and evidence that we were able to, through our source network, identify the horrific murder of the D.C. intern Eric Tarpinian-Jachym and I have spoken to his family and we are working to bring them justice and Mr. Chair, in my 16 years, now my 17 years of government service, if anyone has any questions about my service, bring it on.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Patel follows:]



Department of Justice

STATEMENT OF

KASH PATEL
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AT A HEARING ENTITLED
"OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION"

PRESENTED
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

**STATEMENT OF
KASH PATEL
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**PRESENTED
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025**

Good morning, Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for inviting me to appear before you today. Each day, the men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) are making a real difference in communities across the Nation, tackling some of the most complex national security and criminal threats with perseverance, professionalism, and integrity – sometimes at the greatest of costs. On their behalf, I ask for your support and pledge to be the best possible stewards of the resources provided by Congress.

The FBI’s work to combat cartels, fentanyl, gangs, terrorism, violent crime, and all other challenges has never been more important. The FBI is meeting these threats head on by redirecting and prioritizing resources to ensure every dollar spent is supporting our employer, the American people.

Keeping Americans safe at home and abroad is a no-fail mission. The FBI currently has over 35,000 direct-funded positions. The dedicated men and women in those positions are tackling a myriad threats head on, from a surge in terrorism threats in the aftermath of the October 7, 2023, attack in Israel; to the scourge of fentanyl killing Americans from coast to coast; to an explosion of violent crime plaguing our communities.

Beginning on January 20, 2025, President Trump issued several homeland and national security Executive Orders, to include directing federal government agencies to pursue the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations (“TCOs”) in the United States. Additionally, in response to the February 20, 2025, U.S. State Department action designating six cartels and four transnational gangs as foreign terrorist organizations (“FTOs”) and Specially Designated Global Terrorists (“SDGTs”), the FBI developed the Counter Cartel Coordination Center to bring to bear all the FBI’s tools, resources, and skillsets to most effectively combat FTOs and SDGTs. Our actions in response to these designations have already yielded significant results.

For example, in March, working with our interagency partners, the FBI announced the apprehension of one of our “Ten Most Wanted” from Mexico—a key senior leader of the brutal MS-13 gang, Francisco Javier Roman-Bardales. This is the third fugitive the FBI and our partners have apprehended since the beginning of this year. Currently, FBI-led task forces are staffed with over 9,000 Federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial partners. Many of these task forces are focused on western hemisphere TCOs, cartels, violent crime, violent gangs, drug trafficking, child exploitation, and human trafficking across our nation's communities. Since January 20, 2025, the FBI has made over 25,000 immigration-related arrests, 350 arrests of Tren de Aragua members, and 195 arrests of MS-13 members. Additionally, the FBI has seized 66,600 kilograms of cocaine, 6,675 kilograms of methamphetamine, and 1,500 kilograms of fentanyl.

Over the last few months, personnel across the FBI's 55 field offices have participated in Operation Allied Corridor, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) Homeland Security Investigations (“HSI”)-led operation to advance Title 8 enforcement priorities. The FBI, with support from ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations (“ERO”) HSI, the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”), and the United States Marshals Service (“USMS”), has targeted approximately 3,000 U.S.-based criminal aliens either associated with criminal organizations (TCOs and narcotics smuggling networks) or re-entry violators with criminal histories who are eligible for deportation and removal from the United States. We are starting to see incredible results because of task forces like these, and the country is safer as a result. Since April, FBI Tampa Division's Panama Express Strike Force, in coordination with DEA, HSI and Coast Guard, has seized approximately 66,900 kilograms of cocaine—valued in excess of \$1.6 billion USD—from illicit maritime vessels transiting the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea bound for Central America, Mexico and ultimately, the United States. The FBI partnerships do not stop at our borders. We are focused on collaborating with our international law enforcement partners as well. Recently, FBI Miami Division, in coordination with Legal Attaché Bogota and our Colombian Vetted Team members, seized 258 kilograms of cocaine in Barranquilla, Colombia before it was loaded onto a go-fast vessel.

The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces (“JTTFs”), located in each of the FBI's 55 field offices, support President Trump's Executive Orders and the Department of Justice's focus on immigration enforcement while working in partnership with Department of Homeland Security components to address terrorism-related subjects eligible for immigration enforcement action. Additionally, the FBI is combatting evolving international terrorism threats as evidenced by the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas in Israel and continued attempts of terrorist actors to infiltrate the United States as migrants. As a co-leader of the Department's Joint Task Force October 7 (“JTF 10-7”), created by the Attorney General on February 5, 2025, the FBI will continue to work tirelessly to seek justice for the victims of the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack and address the ongoing threat posed by Hamas and its affiliates. The continued sharing of information among our numerous partners through JTTFs, statewide and regional fusion centers, and law enforcement partners (or partner associations) across the country, and our legal attaché offices around the world, remains a critical component in identifying, preventing, and responding to terrorism threats.

Cyber threats are increasing everyday within an already crowded field of nation-state and criminal actors, which remains one of the FBI's biggest concerns. The People's Republic of China ("PRC") presents the greatest and most sophisticated cyber threat to U.S. public safety and national security. Last year, PRC actors, tracked publicly as Salt Typhoon, showed their brazenness when they broke into the networks of multiple telecommunications companies both here and abroad to indiscriminately steal customer call records data related to millions of customers. They also compromised the private communications of a limited number of individuals, and copied certain sensitive information related to law enforcement. Other nation-states, like the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ("DPRK"), Iran, and Russia use cyber espionage, cyberattacks, and outright theft to achieve their goals. Disturbingly, nation-state actors have obtained an increasing capacity for stealth in recent years, demonstrating the ability to maintain persistent, long-term access on U.S. networks without detection. Just as worrisome is their focus on compromising U.S. critical infrastructure and pre-positioning on it for malicious use during a time of crisis or conflict. We are working to make it harder and more painful for malicious cyber actors and criminals to carry on their malicious activities.

As the lead federal agency for threat response, the FBI works seamlessly with domestic and international partners to defend U.S. networks, attribute malicious activity, hold malicious actors accountable, and go on the offensive to disrupt our adversaries. We must impose consequences on cyber adversaries and use our collective law enforcement and intelligence capabilities to do so through joint, sequenced operations for maximum impact. And we must continue to work with the Department of State and other key departments and agencies to ensure that our foreign partners are able and willing to cooperate in our efforts to disrupt perpetrators of cybercrime.

Counterintelligence operations against nation-state adversaries mitigate grievous risk to U.S. national security. U.S. adversaries, including Russia, the PRC, and Iran continue to undermine our core institutions, and they are becoming more aggressive and more capable. The economic espionage threat posed by the PRC cannot be overstated. The PRC has deliberately created an environment that abuses global interconnectedness and encourages intellectual property theft, using human intelligence officers, corrupt corporate insiders, and reckless and indiscriminate cyber intrusions. We have active PRC counterintelligence investigations across all 55 FBI field offices. The FBI's Iran Threats Mission Center ("ITMC") increases collaboration across all Iran threats—cyber, counterintelligence, and counterterrorism. The center synchronizes intelligence and operations on multiple joint initiatives and increases the FBI's understanding of the Iran threat, contributing to the President's National Security Presidential Memorandum ("NSPM-2"), "Imposing Maximum Pressure on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran" objectives. Across all of our adversary threat streams, the FBI has arrested 59 foreign intelligence operatives for spying or smuggling dangerous substances into the country since January 20, 2025.

We have built, and are continuously enhancing, a workforce that possesses the skills and knowledge to deal with the complex threats and challenges we face today—and will face tomorrow. We are building a leadership cadre that views change and transformation as a

positive tool for keeping the FBI focused on the key threats facing our nation. As criminal and terrorist threats become more diverse and dangerous, the role of technology becomes increasingly important to our efforts; and keeping pace with technology remains a key concern for the future. The FBI Laboratory, operating out of state-of-the-art facilities in Quantico, Virginia, and Huntsville, Alabama, is one of the largest and most comprehensive forensic laboratories in the world. One example of the Lab's key services and programs is the Combined DNA Index System ("CODIS"), which allows over 200 law enforcement laboratories throughout the United States to compare over 25 million DNA profiles. Over one million DNA samples are added to CODIS every year and, as a result, over 125 investigations are aided each day. In the last 20 years, CODIS has aided over 722,000 investigations, while maintaining its sterling reputation and the confidence of the American public.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not underscore an urgent legislative issue. On September 30, 2025, the authorities in 6 U.S.C. § 124n for the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice, including the FBI, to detect and mitigate malicious unmanned aircraft systems ("UAS") will expire unless renewed or new legislation is adopted. Small UAS are inexpensive, widely available, and ready for surveillance out of the box. With minimal accessories, they can carry payloads, creating real risks to public safety and national security from criminals, foreign intelligence services, and terrorists. Without reauthorization or new and expanded authorization, the nation's highest-risk special events, like the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Summer Olympics, and other covered missions will be unprotected against unsafe or malicious drones. Legislative action is essential. A measured expansion is also needed so trained and certified state, local, tribal, and territorial partners can act lawfully when a credible UAS threat emerges—in a manner that does not risk the safety and efficiency of lawful aviation operations, both manned and unmanned. The FBI's National Counter-UAS Training Center in Huntsville, Alabama, is prepared to certify these partners to common national standards, so they can safely detect, identify, deconflict, and, where authorized, mitigate UAS threats in their jurisdictions.

In addition to addressing the extensive external threats facing our Nation, the FBI will focus some of its resources to address the internal risk of non-compliance with all of the laws, rules, regulations and policy that apply to our work. We have been very clear that the FBI must create a culture of compliance that gives the American public the confidence that we will do our work objectively, impartially, and in strict adherence to the Constitution. Our broad mandate and sweeping authorities come with commensurate guardrails to protect U.S. Citizens.

The FBI takes its responsibility of fiscal stewardship seriously and is looking at all available options to optimize existing resources and deliver more efficiently. Over the past few months, we commenced the process to reallocate hundreds of positions from the National Capital Region out to field offices across the country to enhance investigative capacity and provide better support to Federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial partners. This enhancement to field resources will increase the investigative capacity in 49 of our 55 field offices and will enable the FBI to focus these resources on addressing violent crime, gangs, drugs, counterintelligence, and terrorism threats.

Lastly, the American people deserve an FBI that is open, transparent, and responsive to congressional oversight. Since January, we have produced over 33,000 pages of documents to various congressional oversight committees with jurisdiction over the FBI on myriad topics, including over 7,200 pages of productions to this Committee alone. Moreover, the FBI will continue to take on public corruption, civil rights violations, and white-collar crime to restore the American people's confidence in the institutions and leaders that serve them.

In conclusion, the threats we face as a Nation have never been greater or more diverse and the expectations placed on the FBI have never been higher. The members of this committee are important partners in our fight against every threat out there – and in our efforts to build trust and credibility.

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Raskin, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Chair JORDAN. Thank you, Director.

We will now proceed under the five-minute rule. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California, Mr. Issa.

Mr. ISSA. Director, delighted to have you here. You are a breath of fresh air.

As you outlined, and I won't repeat it, the accomplishments, you did so with the same resources as your predecessor roughly, is that correct?

Mr. PATEL. I believe so, yes.

Mr. ISSA. How much of that has to do with taking people out of the back side of the FBI and moving them into the field, into doing the job for which you primarily pay the FBI?

Mr. PATEL. It's exactly what we needed done. One-third of the FBI's workforce resided in the National Capital Region before I got there. One-third of the crimes do not happen in Washington, DC.

Mr. ISSA. Not anymore.

Mr. PATEL. Not anymore. One thousand personnel of the FBI were deployed across this country on a permanent basis and every single State in this union is getting a plus-up. Not a reduction, a plus-up of 1811s, of intel analysts, and support staff. That is why the crime rates are going down in record numbers.

Mr. ISSA. Thank you for doing that. Perhaps the hardest thing for a bureaucrat to do is to lower the head count around them that support them, and I appreciate your willingness to do it different than your predecessor.

A lot of what you covered earlier was the find, the discovery, and then the prosecution that is done by the DOJ. I want to talk a little bit about the prevent side.

Mr. PATEL. On the Charlie assassination, sir?

Mr. ISSA. No, no. No, on all of these.

Mr. PATEL. OK.

Mr. ISSA. OK. For example; and I will bring it up before the Democrats bring it up, January 6th. On January 6th, we now know because of your find that in fact there were people involved who were not just observers, but participants who in fact—it has been alleged, and I personally believe—were a part of promoting, perhaps even the one woman who died encouraging her to walk through a door that led to her death.

When you see that kind of activity, and you know it was done under predecessors with full knowledge, whether it is January 6th where imbedded people crossed the line, or any other activity including obviously the Russian hoax that we are now dealing with front and center.

My question to you is what can you or others do to prevent it from occurring again, not on your watch, but on future watches? How can we know that this won't happen again the moment you leave the FBI?

Mr. PATEL. It's simple. What I am doing through our leadership cadre is having FBI agents do what they were trained to do, not what they were not trained to do, not put them in situations that both harm them and the public. We're also utilizing our SORT networks and prioritizing the threat structure to go after the narco traffickers, the counterterrorism people, the counterintelligence

threats, and the cyber threats. That's what they were trained to do, and that is what we are letting them do.

Mr. ISSA. One major question I have: After decades of doing this, each on our side of it, both the Chair, myself, and others, both at Oversight and here, have seen that the FBI and the Department of Justice hide behind nonstatutory practices. Now, you have changed the interpretation of many of those practices. That is why we are getting the discovery that was previously withheld.

How do we work together to make sure that we never again have false walls, nonstatutory walls that say the Department of Justice has a prohibition about giving, quote, "you fill in the blank that has led to the Chair not seeing anything until you took over?"

Mr. PATEL. I'm wedded to aggressive constitutional oversight having been a House congressional staffer. I know that is an important part of securing our democracy. The way we make it an ever-lasting enduring process is by showing the American people the results of what we are doing, and the important work of this Committee, and putting it out to them so they could see government waste, fraud, and abuse. Then they can demand from our constituents and our electors that they want this process to continue.

Mr. ISSA. Last major question here: Some things are so sensitive that we both would agree they cannot be made public. Will you commit to this Committee when it is too sensitive to disclose that you would at least make it available for in-camera review by the Chair and Ranking Members, or others designated?

Mr. PATEL. I have done that, and I will continue to do that.

Mr. ISSA. Well, thank you.

Mr. Chair, this is a breath of fresh air. This is the beginning of what we need. My questions today for the Director are ones in which I believe that we do need to codify by agreement, or by statute, if necessary, the kind of openness and transparency that we are seeing from this administration, the kind of discovery that is allowing us to do our oversight properly. I would hope that this will be the followup to this, obviously along with the Attorney General. I yield back my four seconds.

Chair JORDAN. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from New York is recognized.

Mr. NADLER. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Welcome, Director Patel. In the wake of the tragic murder of Charlie Kirk, Donald Trump said, quote,

Violence and murder are the tragic consequences of demonizing those with whom you disagree, day after day, year after year in the most hateful and despicable way possible.

I would note for the record that Donald Trump has famously demonized practically every person he has ever disagreed with, and therefore using his own logic he has put their lives at risk. I should know. Donald Trump continuously puts my life in danger.

About two weeks ago when I had announced my decision not to seek reelection, many people on both sides of the aisle, including the Chair, offered me well wishes and thanked me for my service. Donald Trump on the other hand took to Truth Social to call me a quote, "psychopathic-job," among other things.

Yesterday, I received a threatening note filled with anti-Semitic comments and hateful attacks that mimic some of the same lan-

guage used by the President. I am sure many of us on this Committee face similar threats every day.

We have seen political assaults on both the Left and the Right. The attack on Charlie Kirk, the attempted assassination of the President, the murder of the democratic speaker of the Minnesota House, the assault on Paul Pelosi, and the attack on the Capitol on January 6th, for example.

Director Patel, do you agree that there is political violence from both the Left and the Right?

Mr. PATEL. There is too much political violence.

Mr. NADLER. Do you agree, yes or no, that there is violence—

Mr. PATEL. There is too much political violence based on ideologies from either side.

Mr. NADLER. From either side? OK. Are you aware of the study by the Cato Institute, a well-known conservative group, that found that 69 percent of the violence is from the Right?

Mr. PATEL. I'm not familiar with that study.

Mr. NADLER. You are not familiar? OK. I would commend it to you.

Are you aware the administration has threatened to use violence as an excuse to crack down on liberty and freedom of speech?

Mr. PATEL. Say that again. I'm sorry.

Mr. NADLER. Are you aware the administration has threatened to use violence as an excuse to crack down on liberty and freedom of speech?

Mr. PATEL. Nobody at the FBI's doing that.

Mr. NADLER. I didn't ask you about the FBI. I said the administration.

Mr. PATEL. I speak for the FBI.

Mr. NADLER. I would like to enter into the record an article from today's *The New York Times* titled, "Trump Invokes Kirk's Killing in Justifying Measures to Silence Opponents."

In the wake of Charlie Kirk's killing President Trump and his allies have laid out a broad plan to target liberal groups, monitor speech, revoke visas, and designate certain groups as domestic terrorists.

I ask unanimous consent to insert this into the record.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. NADLER. Thank you. Politicizing the murder of Charlie King to go after free speech is not a legacy, I believe Charlie King would have wanted.

Moving on, I want to address another topic: The FBI has traditionally played a key role in prosecuting public officials for corruption, but I fear that at a time when the President is accepting planes from Qatar for his post-Presidential personal use, issuing pardons to major donors, and personally profiting from the Office of the Presidency, the FBI may be abandoning its commitment to investigating public corruption.

Since its creation in the wake of the Watergate scandal the Public Integrity Section has been one of the crown jewels of the Department of Justice, investigating and prosecuting corruption against the Nation's public officials and acting as a key safeguard among politicized prosecutions. This section's work has been supported by an elite squad in the FBI devoted specifically to rooting out corruption. According to reports the Public Integrity Section

has now been decimated and the FBI's public corruption squad has been dismantled.

I would like to submit to the record an article in *The New York Times* entitled, "FBI Dismantles Elite Public Corruption Squad." I ask unanimous consent.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. NADLER. Thank you. These actions are an invitation to corrupt politicians to break the law since they know that the government is asleep at the switch.

Last month Senator Warren and I, along with dozens of other Members of Congress, wrote to you and Attorney General Bondi expressing grave concern over your decision to effectively legalize corruption and politicize prosecutorial decisions.

I ask unanimous consent to enter this letter into the record.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. NADLER. Thank you. I don't have time today to walk through all our questions and concerns, but will you commit to answering this letter in short order so that we can understand what factors led to this decision and how it has impacted the ability to hold corrupt officials accountable?

Mr. PATEL. I will review your—I will review your letter with my team and respond as soon as I can.

Mr. NADLER. You will respond? Thank you. I yield back the balance of my time.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Director, for being here. I appreciate the change in the FBI and the tone since you have been there. We heard the Ranking Member, however, describe the FBI under your leadership as resorting to political enforcement and you personally as being paranoid. I would just suggest that perhaps that is the projections of the Ranking Member himself, and not you, sir.

I want to refer to something that was said in yesterday's hearing by Senator Grassley. He said it is well understood that your predecessor left an FBI infected with politics. At your nomination hearing he made—he gave you records, made public records about whistleblowers regarding something called Arctic Frost.

Arctic Frost was the FBI case opened and approved by anti-Trump FBI agent Thibeau, and Arctic Frost became Jack Smith's elector case. The new records show that Arctic Frost was much broader than just an electoral matter. In fact, it was expanded to Republican organizations.

Some examples of the groups that the Ray FBI sought to place under political investigation included the Republican National Committee, Republican Attorneys Generals Association, and Trump political groups. In total, 92 Republican targets including Republican groups, Republican-linked individuals were placed under the investigative scope of Arctic Frost.

On that political list for investigation was one of Charlie Kirk's groups, Turning Point USA. In other words, Arctic Frost wasn't just a case to politically investigate Trump. It was the vehicle by which partisan FBI agents and DOJ prosecutors could achieve

their partisan ends and improperly investigate the entire Republican political apparatus.

I would ask, Mr. Chair, that this document be admitted to the record.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. BIGGS. I know that this may be under current investigation, but I wish to ask specific questions about this for just a moment. What search tools were used in Arctic Frost to view private communications of targets?

Mr. PATEL. I believe the traditional search tools, search warrants, lawful service of process, and the tools that the FBI have in our infrastructure system, cybersecurity systems, and counterintelligence systems.

Generally speaking, if I may, I want to use this to highlight the fact that I'm continuing my promise to work with Congress to produce documents simultaneously, and also conduct ongoing investigations. I'm giving you as much as I can, and I'll give you more when I can.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you. Another question with regard to that is: Were there any directives from the Biden White House concerning the Arctic Frost investigation?

Mr. PATEL. Were there any—sorry?

Mr. BIGGS. Directives or communications from the Biden White House itself concerning the Arctic Frost investigation?

Mr. PATEL. I'll just rely on what was turned over to date, sir.

Mr. BIGGS. OK. I want to add here the search warrants that were used included the seizing of a U.S. Member of Congress—his phone. I think we all know who that was, and how that was taken away and used for political purposes, Mr. Chair, Mr. Director.

We will leave that for a second, and let's go over to the Charlie Kirk case for just a second. Let's emphasize this: How many hours did it take from the assassination to the arrest of the assassin, Mr. Director?

Mr. PATEL. Thirty-three.

Mr. BIGGS. That seems pretty swift. It was because of the actual release of videos and photographs that you directed to be released, sir?

Mr. PATEL. That's correct. To put it in perspective, the Boston Bomber took five days and Luigi Mangione took five days.

Mr. BIGGS. Was the platform Discord forthright from the start with law enforcement about the shooter's communications on its platform?

Mr. PATEL. Discord, the platform ownership has been working with our lawful process and we obtained materials from them on a rolling basis.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you. I want to get back here to Arctic Frost for just a second.

Mr. Chair, I would like the unclassified document from the FBI released to be admitted into the record. Also, a document from the *Economic Times* also be admitted into the record.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. BIGGS. I am going to give you the last 30 seconds. We could go on about the Epstein case. I have got a bunch about that. I am

just going to let you—if you wish to respond, to either of the two vitriolic questioning or statement from the Democrats.

Mr. PATEL. The work of the FBI speaks for itself. It's on showcase here today. Anyone that wants to attack the FBI can attack me, but leave our leadership structure alone. When you have 23,000 violent felons arrested, twice as many as this time last year, the work speaks for itself.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you. Appreciate your good work, Director Patel. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. RASKIN. Thank you kindly, Mr. Chair.

Director Patel, before you joined the FBI you railed against it for covering up Jeffrey Epstein's human trafficking ring. Let me refresh your memory with this clip.

[Video played.]

Mr. RASKIN. You finished that December 2023 interview with a challenge to the FBI and harsh words for Republicans in Congress for not getting the Epstein files out to the public. See this clip.

[Video played.]

Mr. RASKIN. Put on your big boy pants and let us know who the pedophiles are, you said. You emphasized that the President and FBI Director each had complete authority to release Epstein's client list. You said Epstein's black book is under the, quote, "direct control of the Director of the FBI." Look at this clip.

[Video played.]

Mr. RASKIN. All right. You were sworn as Director more than 200 days ago. Now, the black book is under your direct control. Why haven't you released the names of Epstein's coconspirators in the rape and sex trafficking of young women and girls?

Mr. PATEL. The Rolodex, which is what everybody colloquially refers to as the black book, has been released.

Mr. RASKIN. Oh, you are talking about what the journalists got five years ago? No, that is not what we are talking about. We are talking about what you were talking about there, the black book under the direct control of the FBI Director.

Mr. PATEL. That's exactly what—we have released more material than anyone else before. The Biden Administration, Obama Administration had the exact opportunities to release this material, and they never did. If you are telling the men and women of the FBI they're not going after child predators—

Mr. RASKIN. Why do you change your position?

Mr. PATEL. Hang on. You said we're not going after child predators. Fifteen hundred child predators were arrested this year. Thirty-five percent increase.

Mr. RASKIN. OK. I reclaims my time.

Mr. PATEL. Forty-seven hundred child victims—

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Chair, I am going to reclaim my time. If you could instruct the witness?

Why have you changed your position? There you were saying it is under the direct control of the FBI Director and all of it should be released. Why did you change your position?

Mr. PATEL. Everything that has been lawfully permitted to be released has been released. As I told you the investigation was limited.

Mr. RASKIN. Really?

Mr. PATEL. Let me make something crystal clear: I never said Jeffrey Epstein didn't traffic other people, other women, and they're not other victims. This is the investigation we were given from 2006–2008. The search warrants from 2006–2008. That's what we're working with.

Mr. RASKIN. Well, wait. Have you released all the stuff that the FBI has seized from Epstein's house: The computers, the emails, the file cabinets, and the documents?

Mr. PATEL. Every—

Mr. RASKIN. What about the financial records? Have you released all that?

Mr. PATEL. Everything the court has allowed us to release—

Mr. RASKIN. Which court are you talking about?

Mr. PATEL. Three separate Federal courts have come in and said—

Mr. RASKIN. We are talking about the evidence you have got. It is nothing to do with what those courts have.

Mr. PATEL. Do you have any idea how the law works?

Mr. RASKIN. We are talking about the—Wait.

Mr. PATEL. Do you want me to break the law and a Federal judge's order to satisfy your curiosity.

Mr. RASKIN. No, I want you to follow your own word, Director Patel. You said up there it was under the direct control of the FBI Director. He had the black book. Have you released—

Mr. PATEL. Everything I have direct control over—we have gone to court. You haven't—

Mr. RASKIN. Complete your sentence. Everything you have direct control you said—

Mr. PATEL. We have gone to court and everything we have direct control over has been lawfully released.

Mr. RASKIN. Director Patel, complete your sentence. You said everything—

Chair JORDAN. To the gentleman, he would like to complete his answer.

Mr. RASKIN. You began the sentence, everything you have direct control over I—and then you stopped that sentence. You have released everything that you have direct control over?

Mr. PATEL. That I have direct control over and can lawfully release. If you're not familiar with the court orders, that's not my fault.

Mr. RASKIN. Oh, I am perfectly—

Mr. PATEL. Go look at that. Go to the court.

Mr. RASKIN. I am perfectly familiar with them, but how did we prosecute Ghislaine Maxwell?

Mr. PATEL. She was prosecuted with the investigatory material that was collected from 2001–2005. Because of the nonprosecution agreements and the court orders on the investigations and search warrants we were not able to develop new information. Oh, by the way, Jeffrey Epstein was out for 12 years and the Obama and Biden Administration did nothing to look at his work, his pedophile

network. If you want to blame me, that's fine, but now you're blaming the men and women who conducted this—

Mr. RASKIN. No, it is not that. I am not blaming anybody other than you. You are not keeping your word. You said that you would release all the materials under your direct control.

Mr. PATEL. Has anyone released more information on Epstein that I have? Has anyone?

Mr. RASKIN. Well, much more—

Mr. PATEL. Did Comey? Did Ray? Did they?

Mr. RASKIN. Excuse me. Much more has come out in the days since the American people and Congress have been demanding it, but it is coming out in dribs and drabs. Why didn't you just release the entire file as you promised to do?

Mr. PATEL. I literally just told you. There are multiple Federal court orders. I'm not going to break the law to satisfy your curiosity. You didn't join us when we filed the courts to release the court orders. You could've. You have lawyers. You could've shown up. You didn't do that.

Mr. RASKIN. That is a tiny fraction of the material we are talking about.

Mr. PATEL. That is not. It is not.

Mr. RASKIN. It is a tiny fraction.

Mr. PATEL. How do you know that? Have you seen everything.

Mr. RASKIN. It is all misdirection.

Mr. PATEL. How do you know that?

Chair JORDAN. The time of the gentleman has expired. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Well, thank you. Mr. Director, just to be clear, how many of the Epstein files were released in the four-years of the Biden Administration?

Mr. PATEL. Zero.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. How many have you released?

Mr. PATEL. I don't have the number, but it's got to be thousands of pages of stuff.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I was going to ask you, to begin, whether Americans are safer today than they were nine months ago, but you cited dramatic increases in criminal arrests since you've taken office, a dramatic decrease in crime that has resulted.

Who would have thought that taking criminals off the streets would reduce the crime rate? Somehow we have stumbled on that new truth.

It begs the question what was the FBI doing during the four-years of the Biden Administration to see that dramatic an increase in work under your tenure?

Mr. PATEL. The simple answer is I'm letting good cops be cops. We're working with our State and local law enforcement. We're energizing our partnerships. We're bringing on more task force officers.

When you have more cops on the streets, when you're using ground-based intelligence, when you're not weaponizing law enforcement and focusing on D.C., and focusing on the rest of America, this is what happens.

It is not a significant mind shift in terms of how we maneuver the FBI. They've wanted to do this work since they signed up. We're just letting them.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. We have seen many prominent Democrats oppose your efforts to restore law and order to the streets of our Nation's Capital.

All of us here have seen a dramatic change for the better here in Washington, DC. Why are so many Democrats attacking you for that?

Mr. PATEL. Sir, Democrats have been attacking me for a decade as has the fake news media. They didn't like the fact that I exposed the Russiagate hoax and the largest weaponization of the FBI and DOJ in U.S. history. We proved it to be true with congressional oversight. I'm wed to that congressional oversight and will continue to do that work.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Christopher Wray repeatedly warned this Committee that the Biden open borders policy had produced a significant increase in terrorist threats that he said kept him up at night.

A particular concern, he said, "was the two million gotaways that entered the country during the Biden Administration." That's an average of 41,000 every month. What are the monthly gotaways numbers today?

Mr. PATEL. Sir, I'll have to get back to you on the exact gotaways numbers but identifying that there are gotaways is step one. Going and manhunting them is step two, and that's what we're committing our resources to do.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Well, that's my next question is what progress the administration made in apprehending and removing terrorist threats that came in during the Biden years.

Mr. PATEL. I think you're talking about—if you're not, let me know—known or suspected terrorists, and we have encountered almost zero at the Southern border since the Southern border has been sealed.

The problem that we are running into is our Northern border. It's, largely, expansive. The enemy has adapted, and we need more focus on the Northern border to stop known or suspected terrorists from coming in from places like China, Russia, the Middle East, Africa, and Afghanistan.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. What can you tell us about the remaining threat posed by potential terrorist cells here in the United States?

Mr. PATEL. The terrorist threat that continues to be posed by international terrorists here in the United States is one of my highest priorities.

We are working through our intelligence community partners to identify those individuals, and we have taken down numerous individuals and numerous rings across this country to neutralize that terrorist threat, including in places like New York City, Los Angeles, and, I believe, Dallas and Texas most recently.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. How extensively did criminal cartels like Sinaloa, Jalisco, New Generation, MS-13, Tren de Aragua, and others infiltrate our country during the Biden Administration?

Mr. PATEL. By the tens of thousands.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. What progress have you been making in combating their presence?

Mr. PATEL. The DHS is best to speak to that. I can't remember the numbers of tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of individuals they found that came in illegally and the tens of thousands that have associations to criminal networks have all been deported.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. That effort is being opposed every step of the way by Democratic leaders in our cities, some of our States, and right here in the Congress. Isn't that true?

Mr. PATEL. Well, we're just working where we can in every single city we can, and I welcome the opportunity to partner with Republicans or Democrats on fighting violent crime like we're doing.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Biggs asked about Arctic Frost. What else can you tell us about that and what we need to do to ensure that it never happens again?

Mr. PATEL. Continue the congressional oversight work that you're doing on Arctic Frost. Let me provide you with more documentation on Arctic Frost and also call in witnesses from the paperwork that we have given you.

You have that right and the American public deserves to hear what those people have to say. As for my ongoing investigation, there's not much I can say.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. What role did the FBI play in suppressing the Hunter Biden laptop story during the 2024 election?

Mr. PATEL. Off the top of my memory, sir, I believe the FBI was in possession of verified information from that laptop and it was improperly publicized that they did not have information and masked it as Russian disinformation.

We now know that was categorically false. I don't know why the FBI did that when they did that, but we have released all the materials related to that.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from New York is recognized, Mr. Goldman.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Mr. Patel, does Donald Trump appear anywhere in the Epstein files?

Mr. PATEL. I'm sorry, could you say that again?

Mr. GOLDMAN. It's not a complicated question. Does Donald Trump appear anywhere in the Epstein files?

Mr. PATEL. I didn't say it was a complicated question. I just didn't hear you, so my apologies. We have released where Mr.—where President Trump's name is in the Epstein files and everybody else, and all credible information that we are legally allowed to release has been released.

Mr. GOLDMAN. All right. Let's go through that. You're referring to court orders that prohibit you from releasing grand jury testimony under Rule 6(e). Is that what you're referring to when you say as the law allows?

Mr. PATEL. That's a piece of it.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Really? What other evidence does the—do those three court orders you cited prohibit from being released?

Mr. PATEL. Information that was collected pursuant to those search warrants that were limited in fashion.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Wrong. Wrong. That's not what the court order says and that's not under 6(e).

Mr. PATEL. You're talking—and I said that's 6E and I said there was others and I'm answering that. There are sealed court order documents. There are protective orders—

Mr. GOLDMAN. They are unsealed as part of discovery given to Ghislaine Maxwell. They are no longer sealed.

Mr. PATEL. That's just not true. We can argue about it all you want but—

Mr. GOLDMAN. OK. Well, you agree that there are—so wait, your testimony here is that the reason why you are not releasing all the videos that you have acknowledged there are so many and that the FBI spent thousands of hours of reviewing—the photographs, all the photographs that you have—you're saying that you're not releasing those because there's a court order requiring them to be sealed? Is that your testimony?

Mr. PATEL. I never said that about the videos. On the totality of the videos, of the thousands of images that were seized pursuant to the search warrants executed at the time, the overwhelming majority of that video is pornographic material that was downloaded from the internet and child sexual abuse material. We will never release that.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Well, as you should not release the victims. If there are videos that relate to others who Epstein trafficked to such as maybe Prince Andrew or photographs, that you have total control to release.

Mr. PATEL. Yes, and if it exists—

Mr. GOLDMAN. Why haven't you released it?

Mr. PATEL. Why are you supposing that this is a fact when in fact it is false? Are you saying that I'm sitting on evidence?

Mr. GOLDMAN. You're saying that none of the videos relate to anything relevant to the Jeffrey Epstein trafficking ring?

Mr. PATEL. Every single video that we have collected pursuant to the prior search warrants has been examined for the last 10 years and every single video has been utilized for whatever prosecutions were able to be legally brought.

Mr. GOLDMAN. I'm not asking about prosecutions. I'm asking about why you aren't releasing the full Epstein files including the names of people who were involved in the sex ring that you promised to do before you became the FBI Director.

Mr. PATEL. I just told you I'm not going to release downloaded porn and put it on the internet.

Mr. GOLDMAN. I'm not asking about that. Fine. I'm asking about all the other files.

Mr. PATEL. What other videos? Tell me. Tell me.

Mr. GOLDMAN. That's what I'm asking.

Mr. PATEL. Tell me.

Mr. GOLDMAN. You're saying there are no videos that would be relevant to anyone else involved in the Jeffrey Epstein sex ring?

Mr. PATEL. Pursuant to Mr. Acosta's collection of information based on the search warrants, that's all we have in our possession.

Mr. GOLDMAN. I understand, and I'm asking you about that stuff.

Mr. PATEL. That's all we have got.

Mr. GOLDMAN. I'm not asking all you've got. I'm asking you in that stuff there's nothing that's related to any other sex trafficking—any other people engaged with Epstein in underage sex.

Mr. PATEL. That's correct. To my knowledge, no.

Mr. GOLDMAN. OK. Let's talk about the witness interviews, 302s of witness interviews. Those are not subject to the court order. Those are not subject to any fictional sealed order for a search warrant. Why aren't you releasing those with the redacted names of the victims?

Mr. PATEL. We are releasing as much as legally allowed. That's why we went back to the courts.

Mr. GOLDMAN. How is that not legally allowed?

Mr. PATEL. Sir, do you know how court orders work? Do you know how protective orders work? Do you know how sealing orders work?

Mr. GOLDMAN. Actually, Mr. Patel, I was a prosecutor—a real prosecutor for 10 years. I know exactly how court orders—

Mr. PATEL. Oh, so I was a fake one?

Mr. GOLDMAN. I want to understand what the court order prevents you from releasing witness statements that the FBI took.

Mr. PATEL. You should know that as a real prosecutor when the court hands down a protective order and a motion to seal the material is sealed unless that judge waives it.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Your testimony here is that all those witness statements are under a court order—a protective order?

Mr. PATEL. We are providing everything we can legally provide. Congress has sent us a subpoena—

Mr. GOLDMAN. No, that's not my question. My question is why are those witness statements that are not grand jury testimony that if they were under a protective order are no longer under a protective order why they are not being released.

Mr. PATEL. How are they not under a protective order?

Mr. GOLDMAN. Why are you not going to the court like you did for the grand jury testimony to unseal those records?

Mr. PATEL. The DOJ did go to the court.

Mr. GOLDMAN. No, not on those records. Why aren't you going—you just went to grand jury.

Chair JORDAN. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOLDMAN. You are hiding the Epstein files, Mr. Patel.

Chair JORDAN. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOLDMAN. You are part of the cover-up.

Mr. PATEL. Can I respond?

Chair JORDAN. You sure can.

Mr. PATEL. Any allegations that I'm a part of a cover-up to protect child sexual trafficking, victims of human trafficking, and sexual crimes is patently and categorically false. In the work of my—

Mr. GOLDMAN. I hope you will talk to them when they have requested to speak with you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Because the victims have requested and you are not responding to them.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields.

Director, yes or no, is the FBI still spying on parents at school board meetings?

Mr. PATEL. No, sir.

Chair JORDAN. Is the FBI still targeting Catholics?

Mr. PATEL. No, sir.

Chair JORDAN. Is the FBI still spying on President Trump?

Mr. PATEL. I don't believe so.

Chair JORDAN. Is the FBI still censoring Americans?

Mr. PATEL. No, sir.

Chair JORDAN. Is the FBI still targeting Americans for shopping at Cabela's or purchasing Bibles?

Mr. PATEL. Nobody is targeted for their faith.

Chair JORDAN. Is the FBI still targeting Americans who are pro-life?

Mr. PATEL. Nobody is targeting anyone for their beliefs.

Chair JORDAN. Is the FBI still cooking the books on crime data?

Mr. PATEL. The crime data is real.

Chair JORDAN. Is the FBI still purging agents for conservative viewpoints?

Mr. PATEL. No one at the FBI is asking their viewpoints on politics.

Chair JORDAN. Is the FBI still labeling the Betsy Ross flag, the flag of the American Revolution, a hate symbol?

Mr. PATEL. No.

Chair JORDAN. Well, maybe that's why you've been able to—what was the number, 23,000 bad guys you've arrested? A huge increase from the same time period in the previous administration. I think you said 1,400 predators, 4,000 children rescued. Were those the facts?

Mr. PATEL. Forty-seven hundred, 35 percent increase on children rescued.

Chair JORDAN. Yes, and you got the guy at Abbey Gate?

Mr. PATEL. We got the Abbey Gate guy.

Chair JORDAN. The guy from the 4th District of Ohio who lost his life there serving our country. We appreciate that.

Maybe when you're not focused on politics you can actually do what the FBI is supposed to do, go get the bad guys, right?

Mr. PATEL. That's what the men and women of the FBI do.

Chair JORDAN. Director, did John Brennan lie to Congress? Let me just read a couple things, actually, before you answer that. Two years ago we had Mr. Brennan in for an interview, and I asked him, "How did you learn about the dossier in December 2016?"

Mr. Brennan replied,

I received a copy of it from the FBI and the CIA was very much opposed to having any reference or inclusion of the Steele Dossier in the intelligence community assessment.

That's what John Brennan told the U.S. Congress.

Seven weeks ago, the Director of National Intelligence told us this. John Brennan lied and denied using the dossier in the intelligence community assessment because he knew it was discredited. A CIA officer told the House Intelligence Committee Brennan refused to remove it and when confronted with the dossier's main flaws he responded, "Yes, but doesn't it ring true?" Did John Brennan lie to us?

Mr. PATEL. Mr. Chair, I won't stylize the evidence. What I will say is that the intelligence community assessment, those that cre-

ated it and any individual involved with it is an ongoing investigation.

Chair JORDAN. There's an investigation into what took place in December and January of—December 2016 and January 2017 when this whole thing started, this grand conspiracy. That is being investigated. Is that right?

Mr. PATEL. That has been publicly announced by the department.

Chair JORDAN. That's been announced by the department. Did Chris Wray hide documents from this Committee?

Mr. PATEL. You would know better than me, sir.

Chair JORDAN. Well, I think you told us, like, 700 pieces of information you've given this Committee since you've been director relative to just one incident, the Catholic memorandum from the Richmond field office.

Mr. PATEL. I can give you the comparison, sir.

Yes, the Catholic memo I believe we turned over 750 documents. In Mr. Wray's tenure I believe they turned over 19 pages.

Chair JORDAN. Nineteen pages. You've given us 700. Why would Chris Wray hide information from this Committee? Do you want to hazard a guess?

Mr. PATEL. I'm sorry?

Chair JORDAN. Hazard a guess why he would do that?

Mr. PATEL. I don't know, sir.

Chair JORDAN. Maybe it was because they were—the FBI was spying on a priest, trying to get him to break the priest-penitent confidence that exists. Do you think maybe that was the reason?

Mr. PATEL. You'd have to ask him, sir.

Chair JORDAN. Yes, we'd love to do that. I want to read a few names here: Arctic Haze, Tropic Vortex, Riding Hood, Foggy Falls, Echoes Fade, Sirens Lure, and Genetic Christmas. What are these code names about, Director? Do you know?

Mr. PATEL. Not off the top of my head.

Chair JORDAN. Well, Arctic Haze, Tropic—my understanding these are code names for leak investigations of classified information from the year 2017. Does that ring a bell?

Mr. PATEL. In terms of leak investigations, many of those are classified and many of those are ongoing, Mr. Chair. We are working with you to produce documents as we close those investigations or as we declassify them.

Chair JORDAN. Let me ask you this question, because this is something I've wondered about the way the FBI used to work, the way this whole thing kind of—so many of these things unfolded.

It seems to me you had all these people in government leaking information that then gets reported in the press and there's a story written about it, and then that article is then used to further the investigation and move forward with what they want to do. Did that take place back in 1916–1917?

Mr. PATEL. That's the exact scenario that took place in the FISA application for Carter Page and the rest of the Trump campaign.

Chair JORDAN. That is frightening because that's what the CIA is supposed to do in foreign countries. It's not supposed to happen to Americans. It did, didn't it, Director?

Mr. PATEL. Yes.

Chair JORDAN. Not just any Americans. It happened with the President of the United States. Is that accurate?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, sir.

Chair JORDAN. Yes, and you were the key guy in helping expose that. I think our country will be forever grateful for what you did to let the country know that was going on involving Americans, which is not supposed to happen and not just, again, any American but the President of the United States. The Chair now recognizes the gentlelady from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm concerned by reports that FBI agents have been diverted from their important work on crime and antiterrorism to work on matters that are not critical to our safety.

I'd like to play the video—the whole video clip.

[Video played.]

Ms. LOFGREN. In contrast to that attitude of letting it all out we're getting reports of actions that run contrary to getting everything out and that also involve diversions of FBI resources.

For example, an FBI whistleblower reported that you were pressured by the Attorney General to place 1,000 personnel on 24-hour shifts to mine, roughly, 100,000 Epstein-related records to redact President Trump's name from the files.

Bloomberg reported this, that you directed FBI special agents from the New York and Washington field offices to join the Bureau's FOIA employees in Winchester and another building a few miles away and that while reviewing the Epstein files FBI personnel identified numerous references to Trump in the documents, and people familiar with the matter said that Trump's name along with other high-profile individuals was blacked out.

Now, *The New York Times* reports—and this is a quote,

Justice Department officials diverted hundreds of FBI employees and Federal prosecutors from their regular duties to go through the documents at least four times, including once to flag any references to Mr. Trump and other prominent figures.

Details of the review were based on accounts by three former FBI and Justice Department officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears of retaliation and, further, that the FBI finished—after they finished its review of the files and materials was sent to a team of Justice Department lawyers who double-checked the FBI's redactions and, quote, “were instructed to flag any mentions of Mr. Trump and other celebrities.”

Now, I have three questions for you, Mr. Patel, about this.

First, how many times did President Trump's name appear in the Epstein files? Was it more than a hundred? More than a thousand?

Were the agents who were pulled from their duties to redact the President's name from the Epstein files working on criminal cases, national security cases, or child sex trafficking cases and are the number of agents that have been reported diverted for these purposes? Is that accurate?

Mr. PATEL. No.

Ms. LOFGREN. No what?

Mr. PATEL. You asked if it was accurate. I said it wasn't.

Ms. LOFGREN. You're saying that none of this happened, that—

Mr. PATEL. No, I'm saying it was inaccurate.

Ms. LOFGREN. OK. How many times did President Trump appear in the Epstein files? More than a hundred? More than a thousand?

Mr. PATEL. No, what we have been able to release is what we have been legally able to release and that is the—

Ms. LOFGREN. No, that's not the question. I asked you how many times did the President's name appear?

Mr. PATEL. I don't know.

Ms. LOFGREN. It's your testimony that you do not know that answer?

Mr. PATEL. The number of times, no.

Ms. LOFGREN. Could you tell us how many agents were diverted for this task and what they were working on?

Mr. PATEL. When you say diverted you make it seem as if agents were pulled off what they do all the time. Agents at the FBI masterfully do double duty and triple duty, and because of the public's interest in this case we flexed resources to make sure that we could answer the public's signal demand.

Do you want us to look through the material and provide it to you or you do not want us to do that? Which one is it?

Ms. LOFGREN. It's your testimony that no one was diverted from a criminal matter, that this was a top priority to go through these—this material to look for Mr. Trump's name. Is that your testimony, that's the highest priority for the FBI?

Mr. PATEL. One of the most impressive things about the FBI leadership and the careers that are in place is that they make the decisions on who to send where on priorities and make sure the mission needs are not hurt and that's what happened here.

Ms. LOFGREN. It's shocking to me that the FBI would think that erasing Mr. Trump's name from the Epstein files is a high priority when we have crime, we have national security threats, we have terrorism threats, we have murders such as that occurred, unfortunately, with Mr. Kirk. It's shocking to hear that this is your highest priority.

With that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Mr. PATEL. That's literally not what I said.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. TIFFANY. Director, is President Trump implicated in any wrongdoing related to Jeffrey Epstein?

Mr. PATEL. Based on the entirety of the evidence that we have, absolutely not.

Mr. TIFFANY. The President is not implicated?

Mr. PATEL. Correct.

Mr. TIFFANY. Thank you. I want to talk a little bit about China's malign influence here in America and we have seen spy balloons traverse the United States. We have seen police stations in communities around America.

Sitting in the Chair you're in just two years ago there was a sheriff from Cochise County, Arizona, Mark Dannels, that was here who said that the exponential increase in the amount of fentanyl that is coming into America is directly related to the open borders policies of the previous administration. Do you agree with Sheriff Dannels' characterization?

Mr. PATEL. In large part, yes.

Mr. TIFFANY. Since you've been the Director, has there been a reduction with—we have talked about how the border is largely secure now, right?

Mr. PATEL. The Southern border, yes, sir.

Mr. TIFFANY. The Southern border is, largely, secure. Has there been a concomitant reduction or a reduction in the amount of fentanyl that is coming into America?

Mr. PATEL. There has been a massive reduction to the tune of—we have seized more than 25 percent year-to-date this year than the prior year and that's enough fentanyl to kill 120 million Americans.

Mr. TIFFANY. Does China play a role in this fentanyl that's coming to America?

Mr. PATEL. As I stated in my opening, sir, what they do and the companies in China—mainland China—do is produce the precursors and the cutting agents that they send, ship overseas through various countries and to the Mexican drug cartels who produce it. They basically are the cooks in terms of the ingredients.

Mr. TIFFANY. Tell us, what is the FBI doing to stop China from delivering death to America?

Mr. PATEL. For the first time in a decade, I actually reached out to my counterpart at the Ministry of Public Security—no one at the FBI had done so—to engage—

Mr. TIFFANY. The Ministry of Security—where is that?

Mr. PATEL. In mainland China.

Mr. TIFFANY. In mainland China. Thank you.

Mr. PATEL. To engage in a conversation to say, hey, can we have a certain number of these precursor chemicals listed in China so that they become illegal and illegal to trade.

We're also working with our counterparts in places like India and Guatemala because the transshipment routes of the precursors the Mexican drug cartels have gotten creative and instead of coming directly to America are going into these countries, and we have had massive success in India and Guatemala and in those governments' great partnerships in shutting down the ability to ship the precursors into those countries, which are ultimately destined to America.

Mr. TIFFANY. Those people that are working with security agencies have been working with you. Is that accurate?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. TIFFANY. I want to turn to a couple cases that are at the University of Michigan where Chinese nationals on behalf of the Chinese government smuggled in illicit biological materials, stuff that can harm our agricultural industry. What actions are you taking as we see repeated stories of Chinese nationals doing this in the United States?

Mr. PATEL. Just that, sir, this calendar year alone, as I was mentioning, our counterintelligence operations and cases brought against the Chinese are up by something like 40 percent and specifically the cases in Michigan show two threat streams, not just against our agricultural industry, which is a threat to national security, but they were also bringing in chemical agents and mush-

rooms—I'm not the exact expert—that would have ultimately hurt our population.

We arrested and charged all those individuals and we are aggressively going after them in every single State because they weren't doing it in Michigan alone.

Mr. TIFFANY. Should research universities across the United States be doing a thorough job of vetting Chinese nationals that are coming to their universities?

Mr. PATEL. They should.

Mr. TIFFANY. Turning to spying in America, we heard the stories about Senator Dianne Feinstein's driver who was a Chinese spy. We're familiar with Linda Sun who worked in Governor Hochul's office, Christine Fang in California.

What are you doing to find these people who are Chinese spies that are trying to burrow themselves into the politics of America? Because we know it's happening, right?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, it is, and what our counterintelligence unit is doing is aggressively seeking the intelligence into where these individuals are working and we are utilizing our operational authorities to go in and investigate them, either through our human source networks and collecting information through a lawful process online, search warrants, and data so that we can bring proper arrest charges and publicize to the world what they're doing here. Just because we have caught a few doesn't mean we have caught everybody. We have got a lot more to go.

Mr. TIFFANY. I'll get one more quick question in. The FBI arrested a judge in Wisconsin, Hannah Dugan, for interfering with a Federal law enforcement operation. Could you tell us a little bit about that? Is a judge above the law here in the United States of America?

Mr. PATEL. Well, no one is, and that case is ongoing. As you stated in these allegations there was an interference in a lawfully executed Federal law enforcement priority that was interfered with.

Mr. TIFFANY. I yield back, Mr. Chair.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. COHEN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Director Patel, I believe you had primary importance in starting Operation Viper in Memphis. Is that correct?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. COHEN. Operation Viper brought in the FBI, the DEA, and the ATF to help the Memphis Police in policing the city?

Mr. PATEL. That'll be Phase 2, sir. Phase 1 was FBI and local law enforcement in Memphis for the last few months.

Mr. COHEN. OK. You did a good job, and at least the Director and the Mayor have told me that this has been helpful, the FBI working with the police. The FBI are trained in law enforcement. They know Miranda rights. They know how to do policing and they do a good job working with the police. Do you think that the National Guard is necessary to do the work that the FBI is doing now?

Mr. PATEL. Thank you. I do think it's necessary to finish it. What we've done is 500 arrests in Memphis and 110 Federal indictments, but what we need to do is: We've only secured a piece of where the

criminal conduct is occurring in Memphis, and we can't work inside perimeters that are not established and safe. We don't have the manpower to give us the space to fully go into the areas where the criminal activity remains.

Mr. COHEN. Well, are you suggesting that the National Guard is going to go into the more heavily crime areas?

Mr. PATEL. They're going to establish, like they did in Washington, DC, perimeters, where local law enforcement and the FBI, DEA, ATF, and U.S. Marshals can go into. We can't be going into all these areas knowing that they're extremely volatile and jeopardizing the safety of our agents.

Mr. COHEN. Would the National Guard do anything in Washington to help the FBI stay safe from these dangerous elements?

Mr. PATEL. They establish perimeters.

Mr. COHEN. The criminals knew about it, so they—

Mr. PATEL. It was a visible force, sir, so they kind of saw it.

Mr. COHEN. Well, what you did—I commend you for what you did, and I think the FBI coming in—we have a crime problem in Memphis. The FBI has helped, DEA will help, and the ATF will help. I don't think the National Guard is going to help. What I have seen they are not trained in law enforcement, are they?

Mr. PATEL. No, sir.

Mr. COHEN. That could be a problem. Who will direct the National Guard in Memphis? Will they have control over your agents?

Mr. PATEL. No, sir, they won't.

Mr. COHEN. Who will have control over your agents? You?

Mr. PATEL. Well, the SAC and then ultimately the chain of command up to Washington, DC, will control the FBI. There's a task force that was put together that is going to be led by interagency—the heads of U.S. Marshals, DEA, and FBI will be working together with DHS collectively on this.

Mr. COHEN. Have you visited Memphis before?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, sir, I have.

Mr. COHEN. You know how good a city it is?

Mr. PATEL. I love Memphis.

Mr. COHEN. A lot of us do. Memphis is a great city. Great history. Civil Rights Museum. Might say something about slavery, but that was history. It needs to be taught. Blues. Elvis.

Mr. PATEL. Beale Street.

Mr. COHEN. Beale Street. Right. Barbecue. People should come. It is not a troubled city. We have got some crime, but it is not a troubled city. We are not troubled. We love our city and we hope that the National Guard doesn't come in and cause people to have questions about Memphis because it is a city they should visit.

Let me ask you this about—you said that the homicide rates are coming down to an all-time low?

Mr. PATEL. In modern recorded history, yes, sir.

Mr. COHEN. When does modern recorded history start?

Mr. PATEL. The FBI, and I'll get back to you on this, has stats on that going back about 30 years, sir.

Mr. COHEN. OK. I was thinking back to Ozzie and Harriet, and I didn't think you could beat Ozzie and Harriet's time.

Second, you mentioned the Epstein case. Did any of the women that were victims, and they came up here and had a press con-

ference and all—did any of them contact your office and ask to give information?

Mr. PATEL. To my knowledge, no, sir.

Mr. COHEN. If they did—let me ask you first: Is there a statute of limitations on sex crimes like that, sex with a minor, rape?

Mr. PATEL. The DOJ is the expert, but I do not believe there's a statute of limitations on that.

Mr. COHEN. If there is not a statute of limitations, should you not be interviewing those people who know who raped them and the names and the places and give you that information? That seems like that is a treasure trove of information. It is a serious, serious, serious number of crimes.

Mr. PATEL. Sir, I couldn't agree with you more. We've been very public about asking individuals to come forward with new information, and we would run out every single lead on that.

Mr. COHEN. Well, I am sure the women would come forward especially today to assure that they will get an opportunity, because that seems like something we ought to do. Mr. Driscoll, what was his reputation?

Mr. PATEL. I can't comment on Mr. Driscoll's matter. It's an ongoing litigation.

Mr. COHEN. Yes, but his reputation you could tell us about.

Mr. PATEL. I could tell you—I can't tell you about his reputation. His work has been laid out in that lawsuit.

Mr. COHEN. How many of the FBI agents who worked on the January 6th case have been fired?

Mr. PATEL. I don't have that number, sir.

Mr. COHEN. Do you have a ballpark figure?

Mr. PATEL. No, but I can tell you that individuals based on case assignments in the FBI that I have led have not been terminated for case assignments.

Mr. COHEN. Thank you, sir. Come back to Memphis and work with Kevin Kane in our Tourism Bureau.

Mr. PATEL. Yes. Yes, he's great.

Mr. COHEN. Thank you for your work in Memphis.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chair, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman is recognized.

Mr. MASSIE. I have got four documents I would like to introduce into the record:

The first is "Jeffrey Epstein's Sick Story Played Out for Years in Plain Sight." Acosta is quoted in here saying, "I was told Epstein belonged to intelligence and to leave it alone."

The second document is entitled, "What Epstein's Body Guard Warned About His CIA Connections."

The third document is from *FOX Digital*. It is titled, "Epstein's Private Calendar Reveals Planned Meetings with Obama Admin Official, CIA Chief."

The last document is a *Wall Street Journal* article that highlights Ehud Barak's 36 meetings with Jeffrey Epstein. He was the former prime minister of Israel and head of military intelligence for Israel.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. MASSIE. May have held that title when he met Epstein and then—yes.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. The gentleman will hold for a second? The gentleman from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. RASKIN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one UC request. This is Judge Engelmayer's decision from August in *U.S. v. Epstein* stating the government's 100,000 pages of Epstein files dwarfs the 70-odd pages of Epstein grand jury materials.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. MASSIE. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Director Patel, I watched some of your Senate hearing yesterday when Senator Kennedy asked you, "You've seen most the files. Who if anyone did Epstein traffic these women to besides himself?" You replied, according to the transcript, "There is credible information that he didn't traffick them to anyone else." You also said somewhere in the hearing and here today that the problem is that the case files are constrained by limited search warrants from 2006–2007 and that the non-prosecution agreement hamstrung future investigations.

Those constraints only apply to the Southern District of Florida. They do not apply to the Southern District of New York, the location of the 2019 sex trafficking indictment which produced many things including a series of FD-302 documents.

According to victims who cooperated with the FBI in that investigation these documents in FBI possession, your possession, detail at least 20 men including Mr. Jes Staley, CEO of Barclays Bank, who Jeffrey Epstein trafficked victims to, victims including minors such as Virginia Roberts Guiffre, may she rest in peace.

That list also includes at least 19 other individuals, one Hollywood producer worth a few hundred million dollars, one royal prince, one high-profile individual in the music industry, one very prominent banker, one high-profile government official, one high-profile former politician, one owner of a car company in Italy, one rock star, one magician, and at least six billionaires including a billionaire from Canada.

We know these people exist in the FBI files, the files that you control. I don't know exactly who they are, but the FBI does. Have you launched any investigations into any of these people, and have you seen these 302 documents?

Mr. PATEL. Sir, I have asked my FBI agents to review the entirety of the Epstein files and bring forth any credible information. We're working with Congress not only to divulge that information and produce it to you, but any investigations that arise from any credible investigation will be brought. There have been no new materials brought to me launching a new indictment.

Mr. MASSIE. Is it the loophole here or is it your assertion that these victims aren't credible, that the 302s maybe didn't produce credible statements that rise to a probable cause?

Mr. PATEL. It's not my assertion, sir. It's the assertion of two different United States Attorney's Offices from three separate administrations who investigated those same materials in live time.

Mr. MASSIE. Are the 302 documents in the FBI's possession?

Mr. PATEL. They reviewed all that. Yes, sir.

Mr. MASSIE. Have you reviewed those 302 documents that—where the victims' name the people who victimized them?

Mr. PATEL. Have I personally? No, but the FBI has.

Mr. MASSIE. How can you sit here and in front of the Senate and say there are no names?

Mr. PATEL. I said all—

Mr. MASSIE. I named one today.

Mr. PATEL. I said we are not in the practice at the Department of Justice and FBI of releasing victims' names. That is not what we do. We are also not in the habit of releasing incredible information. That's not what we do. Multiple authorities have looked at the entirety of what we have.

Mr. MASSIE. OK. I have got to move on here. Were you present when the AG had the White House event when she released the binders to social media influencers?

Mr. PATEL. I was, yes.

Mr. MASSIE. If you are willing to meet with social media influencers who stood to benefit from the sensational and sad stories of these victims, will you meet with the victims as well?

Mr. PATEL. The FBI will meet with anyone who has new information.

Mr. MASSIE. Will you personally meet with them?

Mr. PATEL. The FBI and the professionals who are handling the cases will.

Mr. MASSIE. Were you instructed that it was important to release the documents to the Oversight Committee on the day of my introduction of the discharge petition to release these files?

Mr. PATEL. I don't know what day that was, so no.

Mr. MASSIE. Well, they were released that day and there were victims' names who weren't redacted, because they were in such a rush, and the victims are not happy about that. Have you investigated any of the CIA connections? Have you seen the CIA file on Jeffrey Epstein? If you wanted to see it, would they show it to you?

Mr. PATEL. Well, I can speak for the FBI, and that's presuming there's a CIA case file, and I've reviewed everything that the inter-agency—not I, the FBI—that was provided to us.

Mr. MASSIE. Would you be willing to look at the CIA file on Jeffrey Epstein?

Mr. PATEL. If there is such a file and if it has not already been turned over to the FBI, the FBI will look at any new investigative leads.

Mr. MASSIE. Have you made any progress on the pipe bomb investigation from January 6th, and have you made any progress on the motive of the Las Vegas shooter?

Mr. PATEL. As to the first, it's an ongoing investigation. We have made progress. As for the second, sir, I'll have to get back to you.

Mr. MASSIE. All right. Thank you. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Mr. Chair, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chair JORDAN. A unanimous consent request from the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GOLDMAN. I ask unanimous consent to introduce an unsigned memorandum from July 7, 2025, that says we did not uncover evidence that could predicate an investigation against un-

charged third parties with the insignia of the Department of Justice and the FBI.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chair, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. JOHNSON. It is an article entitled, "DOJ Deletes Study Showing Domestic Terrorists are Most Often Right Wing."

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Director Patel, thank you for being here today. I want to first talk about the significant role that the FBI plays in combating the national security threats posed by our Nation's greatest threat, our Nation's greatest security threat, China and the Chinese Communist Party. It is a fact that China is America's most significant national security threat, isn't that correct?

Mr. PATEL. I would say so, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. You would agree with me that China wants to dominate the United States of America?

Mr. PATEL. I think that's largely their plan.

Mr. JOHNSON. They want to dominate the world, both militarily and economically, isn't that correct?

Mr. PATEL. I think so.

Mr. JOHNSON. Sir, you have been the FBI Director for the last, what, eight months?

Mr. PATEL. Seven months. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Seven months? During that time, have you held any stock in any companies founded in China?

Mr. PATEL. I don't believe so.

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, you do own stock in a company known as Elite Depot, don't you?

Mr. PATEL. Which one? Sorry.

Mr. JOHNSON. Elite Depot. You own stock.

Mr. PATEL. I'll have to get back to you. It's a law firm and it's a company out of Singapore.

Mr. JOHNSON. OK. Well, another country out of Singapore which is owned by Elite Depot is the Shein company, which was founded in China. Correct?

Mr. PATEL. That company operates out of Taiwan.

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, they changed their headquarters from China back in 2022 to Singapore for tax purposes. It is owned by a Chinese billionaire. His name is Charlie Zeus. You own stock in the company that owns Shein.

Mr. PATEL. Which I disclosed during my confirmation process.

Mr. JOHNSON. You certainly did. Now do you still hold that stock in that Chinese company?

Mr. PATEL. Pursuant to the Department of Justice, who reviewed my material that was submitted during my confirmation process, I was able to hold certain stocks, and they made the decision—

Mr. JOHNSON. You still hold the stocks that you have? You still hold onto these Chinese stocks, these stocks in this Chinese company?

Mr. PATEL. I disagree that it's a Chinese company, but I was—the DOJ, when you're appointed, makes a call on what you can and can't possess.

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, now, let me ask you this: Chinese companies steal trademarks. They produce counterfeit products and sell them over the internet on platforms such as Shein. They steal intellectual property. They steal data from American companies. To me it seems inconsistent with your role as the FBI Director that you would own stock in a company that is based in a country that is the Nation's premier national security threat. It is like you are putting your own financial security over the security of the Nation.

Mr. PATEL. I disagree with that characterization.

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, the American people look at it like it is a classic situation of the fox guarding the henhouse. If the FBI is charged with investigating espionage, economic espionage by companies controlled by the Chinese Communist Party and you are the Director of the FBI, you have got a conflict of interest.

Mr. PATEL. Sir, I would just show if there's any intimation that I—

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, why are you holding onto this stock?

Mr. PATEL. It wasn't a decision I made.

Mr. JOHNSON. It is valued up to \$5 million as of when you last reported, correct? Five million dollars in stock?

Mr. PATEL. No, I don't follow it. The Department—

Mr. JOHNSON. You don't follow it, but you are still making money off it?

Mr. PATEL. I don't have any money off anything.

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, you—

Mr. PATEL. I have done—

Mr. JOHNSON. Trump's trade policies directly impact the value of that Chinese stock. Won't you agree with that?

Mr. PATEL. Which trade policy? I'm not a trade expert.

Mr. JOHNSON. OK. All right.

Mr. PATEL. I want to tell you this:

[Simultaneous speaking.]

Mr. JOHNSON. Crazy on me today. Let me ask you this question: Why are you hiding pedophiles? Why are you shielding pedophiles? Why are you protecting pedophiles?

Mr. PATEL. That is maybe the most offensive thing you could say to me given the numbers of pedophiles we have arrested.

Mr. JOHNSON. Well, you have not released the Epstein files.

You are aware of the Epstein client list that was published in the 18,000—

Chair JORDAN. The time of the gentleman has expired. The gentleman yields back.

Mr. JOHNSON. Can he answer the question?

Mr. PATEL. Can I just respond?

Chair JORDAN. Of course, the gentleman can answer the question.

Mr. PATEL. Since I took over the FBI there has been a 33-percent increase—

Mr. JOHNSON. Sir, all that under Christopher Ray.

Chair JORDAN. Your time is done.

Mr. PATEL. No, it didn't.

Chair JORDAN. The witness gets to answer the question and then we will go to our next—

Mr. JOHNSON. All of that is under the previous Director, sir, and you are coming in here trying to take credit for something that a previous Director instituted and largely brought to conclusion.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman—

Mr. PATEL. I take no credit.

Chair JORDAN. I think it is pretty clear that the Director's numbers—

[Simultaneous speaking.]

Mr. JOHNSON. It is offensive. It is incorrect also.

Chair JORDAN. —are so much better than the previous Director.

Mr. JOHNSON. It is deceptive.

Chair JORDAN. Director Patel, if you want to answer the question—

Mr. PATEL. I take no credit. The men and women of the FBI have seen a 33-percent increase in the number of counterintelligences arrests out of the PRC.

Mr. JOHNSON. All the sudden when you are coming in seven months ago—go for that.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. PATEL. On the pedophile accusation—we have arrested 1,500 child predators in the last seven months.

[Simultaneous speaking.]

Mr. JOHNSON. Under investigations initiated by the prior Directors.

Mr. PATEL. That's more than anybody else.

Chair JORDAN. We appreciate the Director's good work and we really appreciate that the time of the gentleman has expired.

We now go to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Thank Mr. Chair. Thank the FBI Director for coming before the Committee. I assume the FBI Director—Mr. Patel, I believe you probably agree with me that there is a significantly organized effort on the Left side of the political spectrum to advance criminal organizations being able to put more criminals out on the streets. What we have seen this in daily action. Are you familiar with the report that came out last Monday from the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund?

Mr. PATEL. I'm not familiar with that. Sorry.

Mr. ROY. This report came out this past Monday and it said that significant amounts of the money flowing out of George Soros and other leftist organizations and funders has been funding DAs and prosecutors and, quote,

Many of these DAs have never managed an office, prosecuted a criminal case, developed organizational policies. In dozens of America's largest cities and counties this report finds these progressive district attorneys have outsourced core parts of the American criminal justice system to activists and political donors, taking direction and advice on everything from staffing decisions, and communication strategy. Organization is a complex web of donors going in through these organizations to put radical DAs and prosecutors out there, putting criminals on the streets.

Does the FBI Director agree that this exists and is a problem?

Mr. PATEL. I will accept the factual representation. If that exists, it is a problem.

Mr. ROY. The organizations such as Tides, the Fair and Just Prosecution, Brennan Center for Justice, Partnership for Safety and Justice, and the Vera Institute of Justice—the amount of dollars flowing from George Soros through and to these organizations and to the various prosecutors that have resulted in increased crime on our streets including the brutal murder of the Ukrainian refugee in Charlotte. I bring that up because that is one component of the problem.

In addition, we have an organized effort targeting our border. The NGO's, the nonprofits, and the deep pockets of the United Nations, charitable organizations, and a long list of over 250 organizations that the Center for Immigration Studies put out that lays out a complex web of organizations that were moving people into our country knowing that they are dangerous, knowing that they are criminal, associated with taxpayer dollars flowing through the United Nations and donor dollars flowing through organizations, including ostensibly religious ones, putting these dangerous individuals on the street that resulted in fentanyl in our communities, that resulted in the death of Jocelyn Nungaray, of hundreds, thousands even, as the Director testified—100,000 people dying from these narcotics every year. All this in an organized effort, a complete effort by the radical Left to use taxpayer dollars and these dollars to put people on our streets.

In addition, the extent to which we have seen now with the Southern Poverty Law Center and their hate map targeting, for example, the Family Research Council, where we had a shooting right here in D.C. over a decade ago, putting Charlie Kirk—putting a target on TP USA, Antifa, other radical organizations that are very specifically organizing, targeting conservatives and ordinary Americans.

Well, how about the organized to infiltrate our schools and advance the transgender agenda and advance a radical agenda, perhaps one that we will see exposed further in the individual that actually shot Charlie Kirk?

Here are my question: (1) Will you as the Director and are you as the Director pursuing all legal channels to follow the truth wherever it may lead on this organized effort? (2) Do you agree that Congress should take all action necessary to expose this web of dollars that are flowing to undermine our way of life? I have got another minute of my time. Then, I would like to hear from you on this topic broadly.

Mr. PATEL. I'll keep it short. Investigatively speaking, we are doing the following: We are following the money. We are following the money in every organization and every person that is violating the Federal code. It doesn't matter what your background or ideology is. We are following the money. We are using the legal process to follow that money, issuing subpoenas to follow that money, using grand juries to follow that money. When we have results to recommend for prosecution to the Department of Justice, we will do that. We will continue to publicize documents to Congress, yes, when we make these findings.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I would like unanimous consent to insert to the record "Outsourcing Justice" by the *Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund* that I alluded to before.

I would ask unanimous consent to add a 2024 list provided by the Center for Immigration Studies on these United Nations and other affiliated groups that are responsible, over 250 of them, for moving individuals into our country in a coordinated effort.

I would like a unanimous consent to insert a letter that I sent that currently has—33 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives have signed on it calling for a special select committee to pursue the organized effort from the radical left to target our way of life and undermine our security by putting criminals on the street and having our borders being wide open and putting us in danger.

With that, I would yield back.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. The gentleman yields back.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chair, I have a couple of unanimous consent requests.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman is recognized.

Mr. JOHNSON. First, a letter from Senator Tom Cotton dated last year urging the U.S. to, quote, “ensure that data from U.S. companies is not harvested by the Chinese Communist Party through the purchase of Shein software and technology.”

Second, a statement by Marco Rubio, then Senator Marco Rubio, which warned our U.K. allies about, quote, “Shein’s deep ties to the People’s Republic of China.”

Third, for the record “Crime is down in 2025. Trump doesn’t deserve credit,” which demonstrates that the crime rates have been decreasing since 2023, which was published by the *Vera Institute*.

Fourth, a unanimous consent request to enter into the record an *NPR* report from July 2024, “GOP Vows to Make America Safe Again. Statistics Contradict Their Growing Crime Claims.”

Fifth, a report out of *The American Presidency Project* dated January 17, 2025. “Record Low Crime During the Biden/Harris Administration.”

Sixth, “Joe Biden is Correct that Violent Crime is Near a 50-Year Low,” which was a *PolitiFact* publication of May 2024.

Seventh, an “FBI releases 2024 Reported Crimes in the Nation Statistics.” These are FBI statistics published on August 5, 2025, which details decreases in murder rate, aggravated assault, and robbery in 2024.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for U.S. Government.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to submit two sets of documents:

First, a series of emails from the victims of Jeffrey Epstein. They are making FOIA requests to get their own FBI files and not having any success. I want to bring attention to that by submitting that to the record.

Second, a document that I want to submit for the record—I know we don’t usually read these. This one is not readable. It is completely redacted, for the most part, the first 50 pages. This is actually the search warrant that was served on James O’Keefe for a diary that he had already given to the government two months before. As it turns out there were no indictments here, yet he still doesn’t know why he was raided, and I think he deserves to know.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. MASSIE. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. SWALWELL. Director, the first time you saw Donald Trump's name was in the Epstein files, did you close the files or keep reading them?

Mr. PATEL. I reviewed not the entirety of the files, so I haven't made—

Mr. SWALWELL. You haven't reviewed all the Epstein files?

Mr. PATEL. Personally, no.

Mr. SWALWELL. You are the Director of the FBI. This is the largest sex trafficking case the FBI has ever been a part of, buck stops at the top, and your testimony today is you have not reviewed all the files?

Mr. PATEL. What I've been doing is busy providing the safest country this country has seen in modern U.S. history in historic speed because the men and women of the FBI are given the resources to reduce the homicide rate, to reduce the drug trafficking rate, to reduce the amount of children that are being trafficked, and the number of record high.

[Simultaneous speaking.]

Mr. SWALWELL. Well, it sounds like those children being—trafficked would appreciate the Director reviewing the files.

You said you don't know the number of times Trump's name appears in the files. It could at least be 1,000 times. Is that right?

Mr. PATEL. The number is a total misleading factor. We have not released anyone's name in—

Mr. SWALWELL. Could the number at least be 1,000 times? Would it at least be 1,000 times?

Mr. PATEL. We have not released anyone's name in the Epstein files that has not been credible.

Mr. SWALWELL. Would it at least be 1,000 times? Director, could it be at least be 1,000 times?

Mr. PATEL. We have every piece of legally permissible information.

Mr. SWALWELL. OK.

Mr. PATEL. You can characterize the numbers however you want it—

Mr. SWALWELL. Reclaiming my time, Director. It sounds like if you don't know the number it could at least be 1,000 times, which leads me—

Mr. PATEL. It's not. It's not.

Mr. SWALWELL. Is it at least 500 times?

Mr. PATEL. No.

Mr. SWALWELL. Is it at least 100 times?

Mr. PATEL. No.

Mr. SWALWELL. Then, what is the number?

Mr. PATEL. I don't know the number, but it's not that.

Mr. SWALWELL. Do you think it might be your job to know the number?

Mr. PATEL. My job is to provide for the safety and security of this country. My job is not to engage in political innuendo—so you can go out to the sticks and get your 20-second hit and your fund-raising article.

Mr. SWALWELL. That includes protecting sexual assault victims. Reclaiming my time, Director.

Mr. PATEL. Keep going reclaiming your time because the people of California—are being underserved by your representation.

Mr. SWALWELL. If the President is not implicated, why not release everything that involves him?

Mr. PATEL. We have released everything, the President and anyone else aside, that is credible and lawfully be able to be released. Your fixation on this matter and baseless accusations that I'm hiding child pedophiles is disgusting.

Mr. SWALWELL. It is also Mr. Massie's interest.

Mr. PATEL. Anyone that says that needs to look at the stats alone. Go back to the State of California who's receiving the biggest surge in FBI resources through my redeployment because the cities of Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco need it.

Mr. SWALWELL. Reclaiming my time, Director. Remembering your oath to tell the truth, did you ever tell Donald Trump his name is in the files?

Mr. PATEL. I have never spoken to President Trump about the Epstein files.

Mr. SWALWELL. Did you ever tell the Attorney General that Donald Trump's name is in the Epstein files?

Mr. PATEL. The Attorney General and I have had numerous discussions about the entirety of the Epstein files and the reviews conducted by our team.

Mr. SWALWELL. Did you tell the Attorney General that Donald Trump's name is in the Epstein files?

Mr. PATEL. We have released where President Trump's name is in the attorney's file.

Mr. SWALWELL. Did you—It is a simple question. Did you tell the Attorney General that the President's name is in the Epstein files?

Mr. PATEL. During many conversations that the Attorney General and I have had on the matter of Epstein we have reviewed—painstakingly who—

Mr. SWALWELL. The question is simple. Did you tell the Attorney General that Donald Trump's name is in the Epstein files, yes or no?

Mr. PATEL. Why don't you try spelling it out if you're going to mock me?

Mr. SWALWELL. Yes or no, Director.

Mr. PATEL. Use the alphabet.

Mr. SWALWELL. Yes or no?

Mr. PATEL. No? ABC. DEF. Don't want to do it?

Mr. SWALWELL. Director, it sounds like you don't want to tell us. Did you tell the Attorney General that Donald Trump's name was in the Epstein files?

Mr. PATEL. Why don't you try serving your constituency by focusing on reducing—

Mr. SWALWELL. Director, did you tell the Attorney General that Donald Trump's name—

Mr. PATEL. —violent crime in this country and the number of pedophiles that are legally harbored in your sanctuary cities in California?

Mr. SWALWELL. Reclaiming my time, Director. Director, reclaiming my time.

Mr. PATEL. I'll work with you on that. Do you want to work with us?

Mr. NADLER. Bring order, Mr. Chair.

Mr. SWALWELL. Director, reclaiming my time.

Chair JORDAN. Time belongs to the gentleman from California.

Mr. SWALWELL. Did you tell the Attorney General that Donald Trump's name is in the Epstein files, yes or no.

Mr. PATEL. The question has been asked and answered.

Mr. SWALWELL. You have not answered it, and we will take your evasiveness as a consciousness of guilt.

Director, did Donald Trump ever say to you just find and release the entire truth? Don't worry if I am in it?

Mr. PATEL. The instructions from the administration were to release all credible information, and we have done that.

Mr. SWALWELL. Did Donald Trump ever provide information about Jeffrey Epstein as an informant?

Mr. PATEL. Donald Trump has not been, and I can only speak for the FBI, an informant of the FBI.

Mr. SWALWELL. So, Director, you have played this cute shell game where you say you can't release everything because the court has said that it legally is not allowed to be released. The court calls bullshit. Judge Richard Berman said that when you went to the court, quote, "information contained in the Epstein Grand Jury transcripts pales in comparison to Epstein investigation information and materials in the hands of the Department of Justice."

Let's move on, Director. You wrote a book called "Government Gangsters." You identified 20 individuals in that book. You put me on that list, at the top of the list. Thank you. My children find it flattering. Twenty of those individuals have been investigated or have had adverse actions. Director, considering that you have identified these people as quote, "government gangsters," will you recuse yourself from making any investigation decisions about these individuals?

Mr. PATEL. Anyone that has been terminated at the FBI has been done so—

Mr. SWALWELL. No, no. The question again.

Mr. PATEL. —because they failed to meet the muster and their constitutional obligation—

Mr. SWALWELL. Director, I will work on the audiovisual capabilities—

Mr. PATEL. No, no. I'm going to borrow your terminology—

Mr. SWALWELL. Reclaiming my time.

Mr. PATEL. —and call bullshit on your career in Congress.

Mr. SWALWELL. I am reclaiming my time, Director.

Mr. PATEL. It has been a disgrace to the American people.

Mr. SWALWELL. Director, I am reclaiming my time.

Mr. PATEL. You can reclaim your time all you want. I'm protecting the people of California.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Mr. Chair, are you going to allow a witness a speak this way?

Mr. SWALWELL. Would you recuse yourself, Director?

Mr. GOLDMAN. Mr. Chair, would you—

Chair JORDAN. The gentlemen has no time to reclaim.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Mr. Chair, would you admonish the witness not to insult Members?

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman has no time. The Committee will remember—

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, just a quick point of order. Could the gentleman be extended an additional 20 seconds to complete his thought since the witness decided to interrupt him continuously?

Chair JORDAN. The witness will be able to respond, if he wants. We will make sure he has time to do that.

Mr. SWALWELL. Thank you. My question was, will you Director, recuse yourself, yes or no, from investigating or making decisions about the 60 individuals, including myself, that you identified as government gangsters? Yes or no?

Chair JORDAN. Time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PATEL. No.

Chair JORDAN. The witness may respond, if he would like.

Mr. SWALWELL. The answer was no, as I heard.

Mr. PATEL. Correct.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director Patel, for being here today. I wanted to talk a little bit about the assassination of Charlie Kirk and the FBI's subsequent investigation. I know it is really sensitive, and you can make the call as to whether or not, obviously, it is something that you can respond to. I think it is still fresh on many people's minds. I want to congratulate you and Utah law enforcement for the work you did in identifying the suspect and apprehending him.

According to public reports—this is what maybe it is—I still have questions about, and maybe the public does. According to public reports the alleged shooter arrives on the Utah Valley University campus nearly four hours before the shooting. Was that your understanding? Is that kind of—

Mr. PATEL. I'll let the public reports reflect themselves. I don't have the exact timeline.

Mr. FITZGERALD. OK. We don't have any idea kind of his prep, or how he set up, or how he utilized that time when we first showed up on campus?

Mr. PATEL. All those are being currently investigated through our cell phone analysis and through our witness interviews. The State of Utah has now announced charges seeking the death penalty against this suspect, so we're a little limited on what we can continue.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Sure, I understand.

The suspect like you referred to is then captured on security footage jumping off the roof of the alleged shooting location, the Losey Center. Do we have any idea how the suspect got up on the roof in the first place?

I think for the Members of Congress, especially after Butler in Pennsylvania, it's just unimaginable that there could be some type of security breakdown prior to an event of that size where somebody could access a rooftop.

Mr. PATEL. I'm not commenting on the case, but having gone to the crime scene and walked the steps that we believe were taken on the roof was actually readily accessible through an exterior stairwell. Anyone could have gotten on it.

Mr. FITZGERALD. OK. OK.

The suspect flees on foot to this wooded area where he drops the rifle, wraps it in a towel, then proceeds to his staged vehicle, and basically drives home.

Do we have any idea what the towel was about? Was it used later to identify a place where the firearm was left or do we—

Mr. PATEL. Well, we—sorry. What we can tell you is the towel—there was a screwdriver found on the rooftop which DNA was collected off, and the towel was found wrapped around the firearm in question in a wooded area next to the campus. All had been processed for DNA.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Then according to the suspect's roommate there were allegedly messages on instant messaging platforms, specifically Discord, suggesting the towel may have been used to identify that weapon's location.

The public reports have suggested that the shooter acted alone. Do we still believe that this is true? Do we have any idea as to whether or not those Discord messages led us to believe that the shooter may have had help in any way or assistance?

Mr. PATEL. I can only speak to the FBI's investigation, and our investigation is ongoing, and we are interviewing any of those individuals involved in that chat and other individuals in the area.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Very good. My suggestion, if there are accomplices I'm sure this is something the FBI is going to continue to investigate fully and thoroughly into the future.

Mr. PATEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. FITZGERALD. The reason I ask that is because I don't know if that was necessarily the case with Butler, Pennsylvania. Thank you so much for your persistence in this matter. There's still a lot of public questions that need to be asked.

Let me shift to another topic very quickly. On July 31, 2025, the DOJ and the CIA declassified the annex to Special Counsel John Durham's 2023 report on Operation Crossfire Hurricane.

The 29-page Durham Annex contains previously classified information about, among other things, the investigative referral of the Clinton campaign plan.

Why would somebody place documents in a burn bag related to this case?

Mr. PATEL. That case is very much ongoing so I can't comment on the stylization of the evidence we're collecting.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Can you comment at all on the Durham Annex as I described it?

Mr. PATEL. The Durham Annex, which has been publicly released thanks to the FBI's commitment to transparency, is one of the documents that's being utilized.

In general terms, speaking for burn bags, sir, a burn bag is what you use to put classified documents into generally because that is literally how you destroy them.

Mr. FITZGERALD. It appears that efforts were made by the Clinton campaign to reach out to the FBI agents or the Clinton sympa-

thizers in the intelligence community to lead more credibility to the Clinton campaign plan. Do you think that's an accurate characterization?

Mr. PATEL. Again, I'm not going to characterize that material because it's part of an ongoing investigation.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Thanks for being here today. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back.

The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. LIEU. Thank you, Director Patel, for being here today.

The FBI searched the Jeffrey Epstein's Manhattan residence, correct?

Mr. PATEL. I believe that happened in 2018. There were two locations, sir.

Mr. LIEU. In 2019, and in that residence the FBI found a safe, correct?

Mr. PATEL. I don't have the catalog of evidence in front of me.

Mr. LIEU. In that residence the FBI found a safe, correct?

Mr. PATEL. I'll accept your representation.

Mr. LIEU. OK. In that safe the FBI found topless and lewd photographs of girls, correct?

Mr. PATEL. Again, sir, I'll accept your representation. I don't know.

Mr. LIEU. Thank you. It was all over the media at the time. There's *The New York Times* article that says Jeffrey Epstein is indicted on sex charges as discovery of lewd photos is disclosed, dated July 8, 2019, and *The Times* reports a trove of lewd photographs of girls was discovered in a safe inside financier Jeffrey Epstein's Manhattan mansion.

Author Michael Wolff has conducted numerous interviews with Jeffrey Epstein. I'm going to play for you a video clip of what Michael Wolff said Epstein told him was in the safe and what he showed the author was in the safe.

Let's please play that clip now.

[Video played.]

Mr. LIEU. So, Director Patel, I'm going to ask you a very broad and general question. As you know, Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein were friends. There are, of course, photos showing Donald Trump together with Epstein, correct?

Mr. PATEL. I don't have the entirety of the photographs, but I think they've been photographed in public together.

Mr. LIEU. All right. Are there any photos showing Donald Trump with girls of an uncertain age?

Mr. PATEL. No.

Mr. LIEU. How do you know that?

Mr. PATEL. Because that information would have been brought to light by multiple administrations and FBI investigators over the course of the last 20 years.

Mr. LIEU. Well, you know what? That's just not true because no one knew about the creepy birthday message that Donald Trump wrote to Jeffrey Epstein until *The Wall Street Journal* disclosed it and then all of a sudden the Epstein estate provides it to Congress.

Certainly, you weren't there at the search. You don't know what Epstein may or may not have done with those photographs even

prior to the search. Maybe someone has it. Maybe the Epstein estate has it.

Mr. PATEL. You raise a great point.

Mr. LIEU. I'm going to ask you have you asked to talk to Michael Wolff?

Mr. PATEL. You raise a great point. I haven't personally asked to talk to Michael Wolff.

Mr. LIEU. Has the FBI asked—

Mr. PATEL. The FBI—I'll get back to you if the FBI—

[Simultaneous speaking.]

Mr. LIEU. Michael has about a hundred hours of testimony of Jeffrey Epstein. Wouldn't it be good for the FBI to interview Michael Wolff?

Mr. PATEL. I'm not saying they haven't. I just don't know.

Mr. LIEU. Has the FBI subpoenaed the tapes that Michael Wolff has conducted of Jeffrey Epstein?

Mr. PATEL. I don't know.

Mr. LIEU. All right. If you could provide us an answer that would be terrific.

Well, let me ask you this question then. Have you looked at all the photos in the Epstein files?

Mr. PATEL. I have looked at all the information that the investigators who investigated this case have provided to run out credible leads.

Mr. LIEU. In the Epstein file was there that creepy birthday message that Donald Trump had written to Epstein?

Mr. PATEL. That's what I was trying to tell you. You raise a great point. The estate of Jeffrey Epstein has a voluminous amount of information that they have not released before.

Mr. LIEU. OK. That's great. Wouldn't it be great if the FBI subpoenaed the estate of Jeffrey Epstein for all that information?

Mr. PATEL. The estate is under no obligation to provide that material, even pursuant to a subpoena. That's a great point.

Mr. LIEU. That's just false.

Mr. PATEL. OK.

Mr. LIEU. That's just false. You're the fucking FBI. You can subpoena the information from the estate, and you better do that.

Mr. PATEL. That's literally not how it works.

Mr. LIEU. I'm going to move on now and talk about Epstein's client list. You confirmed that it exists. Attorney General Pam Bondi confirmed earlier this year that it exists.

I just want to ask you a simple question. Is Prince Andrew on Epstein's client list?

Mr. PATEL. The material related to Prince Andrew has been made public.

Mr. LIEU. Is Prince Andrew on the client list?

Mr. PATEL. We have released the index of names that were in Jeffrey Epstein's—

Mr. LIEU. All right. Is Donald Trump on Epstein's client list?

Mr. PATEL. The index has been released, and the index will speak for itself.

Mr. LIEU. I'm going to say America, this is a huge red flag. The FBI Director could not answer whether Donald Trump was on Epstein's client list.

I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman's time has expired. I now recognize the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. CLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to thank the Director for being here and for his work over the last several months removing the taint of partisanship that has infected the intelligence community over the past several years under the last administration, under the last several directors, standing up for law enforcement, standing up for the brave men and women who work in your agency.

To set the record straight, we have to correct the record and the record early days of the first Trump Administration saw a dramatic spike in news stories that contained sensitive and sometimes classified details about the FBI's bogus Russia probe, about a leak a day.

It's unacceptable that senior FBI officials coordinated to leak classified information to try and harm President Trump.

The documents produced to the Committee in August of this year revealed that the FBI interviewed a former intelligence committee staffer who gave details on a systematic process through which leaks of classified information were affected by then Chair, now Senator Adam Schiff.

Were these findings escalated within the bureau's chain of command and if so to what level?

Mr. PATEL. Sorry. Were the findings escalated—

Mr. CLINE. Were these findings that were given to us escalated within the bureau's chain of command and, if so, what level did you receive this information?

Mr. PATEL. That entire matter is currently under investigation by the people of the FBI that handle leaks of classified information.

Mr. CLINE. All right. It's good to know that there is an ongoing investigation.

Can you tell me whether these leaks to the media compromised any ongoing FBI investigations during the Trump-Russia probe?

Mr. PATEL. I can tell you, generally speaking, the leaks of classified information are detrimental to any work the FBI is doing.

Mr. CLINE. Now, former Director James Comey testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee that he had never been an anonymous source nor authorized anyone to be an anonymous source in news reports about matters relating to the Trump investigation or the Clinton investigation.

Was Comey's testimony true?

Mr. PATEL. In reference to Director Comey, I'm very limited in what I can say because of what the current status of those matters are with the FBI and the Department of Justice. When I am able to make those public I will.

Mr. CLINE. Can you tell me if there's an ongoing investigation there?

Mr. PATEL. Again, without identifying any individuals related to the information you're generally speaking about there is an ongoing matter that has been under review by the Department and the FBI for some time.

Mr. CLINE. Because we know that the documents that we received last month revealed that former Director Comey used a Co-

lumbia University law professor as a conduit to leak stories to the media that contained classified information.

Let me move on to the way that the FISA process was weaponized by past directors. Prior to your confirmation you raised concerns about government misuse of FISA including Section 702, stating that FISA was in need of major, major reform.

Specifically, you highlighted that the FISC report that the FBI had conducted 278,000 improper searches of the FISA database.

Do you remain concerned about governmental abuse of FISA in Section 702?

Mr. PATEL. I'm always concerned but what we have done since I became FBI Director is implement new audit systems. We are nearing 100 percent review of the 702 query system that you are specifically referring to and we have also eliminated anyone that has ever touched that database has in any way made a mistake whether intentional or not, and we have also identified a system in which those going forward who misuse the 702 system they don't get two strikes. They get one and you're done.

Mr. CLINE. OK. I'm glad you mentioned you're continuing to audit because, as you know in May, *The New York Times* reported you closed the FBI's Office of Internal Auditing. Can you explain why you decided to close this office?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, because under the new restructuring of the FBI to save resources there were two different places doing the exact same thing. We have a specific division dedicated to audits.

I didn't need another audit system doing the audits again and so we folded some of those folks with their expertise into our specific division, then took the rest of those folks and moved them out across the country.

Mr. CLINE. Under previous FBI leadership, FBI agents were found to have lied to the FISC. There have been hundreds of thousands of violations of querying standards. In light of past violations what action is the FBI taking to ensure that similar abuses do not occur in the future?

Mr. PATEL. Exactly what I've outlined. You cannot have access to the 702 query system if you improperly query that system at all at anytime in your career.

Mr. CLINE. At a Senate hearing two years ago your predecessor, Director Wray, testified the FBI had previously purchased U.S. phone geolocation data for a specific national security pilot project and further stated that the project had not been active for some time and that the FBI relies on court-authorized process to obtain location data from companies.

Does the FBI purchase location data or any other data of Americans from data brokers?

Mr. PATEL. I don't believe so, but I'll get back to you.

Mr. CLINE. Thank you. That would be important. I appreciate that. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady from Washington is recognized.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Patel, before you joined the FBI you had very strong opinions about what the FBI was hiding regarding Jeffrey Epstein. In

a September 2023, interview with Glenn Beck you said the black book is under the, quote, “direct control of the Director of the FBI.”

In December 2023, you said, “Let us know who the pedophiles are.” Even for a short time after becoming the FBI Director in February 2025 you tweeted, quote, “There will be no cover-ups, no missing documents, and no stone left unturned.”

In June, you told Joe Rogan, quote, “We have reviewed all the information. We’re going to give you every single thing we have and can.”

Then, suddenly in July everything changed. You and Attorney General Pam Bondi released one video and said that there was nothing more to see.

In your July memo says you uncovered more than 300 gigabytes of data and physical evidence but that you had decided no further disclosure would be appropriate or warranted. That is a quote.

I think what happened, Mr. Patel, is that suddenly you discovered that Donald Trump’s name was all over these files and you started a giant cover-up.

You are under oath, Mr. Patel. You just testified to Mr. Swalwell that you did not speak to the President about the Epstein files. To your knowledge, did Attorney General Pam Bondi speak to the President about what was in the Epstein files?

Mr. PATEL. I can’t speak for Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Ms. JAYAPAL. To your knowledge, you don’t have any information. The question was, do you have any knowledge? Do you have any knowledge?

Mr. PATEL. I can’t speak for the Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Ms. JAYAPAL. You are refusing to answer the question.

Let me tell you that *The Wall Street Journal* reported that in May Bondi told Trump that he was in the Epstein files and at the same meeting said that the DOJ did not plan to release the files.

Yesterday, you testified to Senator Kennedy that there was, quote, “no credible information that Epstein trafficked girls to anyone else” and that you have, quote, “continuously and publicly asked the public to come forward with more information and we’ll look into it.”

Today in response to Mr. Massie’s question you appear to say that the survivors were not credible. These are survivors.

Mr. PATEL. That’s not at all what I said.

Ms. JAYAPAL. OK, great. I’m going to ask you this in a second but let me tell you about the survivors.

Mr. PATEL. Then, don’t lie about me.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Let’s bring them up here into the room. These are women who came to the Hill and testified that they were groomed and raped at the age of 14–16 years old and they called to meet with the President and to meet with the FBI and to have people investigate their claims.

Some of them have never testified before. If you are so interested in getting the public to submit any information, why have you not met with them? You said you haven’t met with them. Have you met with them? I’ll give you one more chance.

Mr. PATEL. My job as the FBI Director is to invite all investigative leads—

Ms. JAYAPAL. Is the answer yes or no to whether or not you met with these women who were sexually abused and raped?

Mr. PATEL. Any insinuation by you or any people on your side that I am not manhunting child predators and sex traffickers, just look at the stats. You talk about cover-ups, ma'am. You talk about cover-ups—

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Patel—Mr. Chair, this is my time and I will take as much time as I want. Instruct the witness, Mr. Chair.

Mr. PATEL. Where were you during the Obama and Biden Administrations when these so-called cover-ups were going on?

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair—

Mr. PATEL. Why didn't anyone in those administrations talk to any of these purported witnesses?

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair—

[Simultaneous speaking.]

Mr. PATEL. —single person to provide credible information.

Chair JORDAN. The time belongs to the gentlelady from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. I'm going to take another couple of minutes.

Chair JORDAN. When you accuse the witness of something he's allowed to respond. That's how it works. You say something—

Ms. JAYAPAL. Listen, he didn't even—excuse me, Mr. Chair, you have always been fair, but this is not fair.

Chair JORDAN. I'm being fair, and you will get your time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. No, this is my time, and he said that the witnesses were not credible.

Chair JORDAN. We will give the gentlelady a few additional seconds of time.

Ms. JAYAPAL. I'm going to get an additional minute of time because that's how much time he took.

Chair JORDAN. No, you won't get a minute. You'll get some seconds what we think is under five minutes. You don't get to demand how much time you get. That's not how it works.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Patel, are the victims of the Jeffrey Epstein horrific trafficking ring, are they credible?

Mr. PATEL. Any person with information about ongoing sexual trafficking—

Ms. JAYAPAL. I'm asking you if they're credible. Are they credible?

Mr. PATEL. Ma'am, I'm commenting on the evidence we have. We have routinely asked for people to come forward with more evidence and we will look at it, and the evidence that we have was the same evidence that the Biden and Obama Justice Department had and they determined, not me—they determined that that information was not credible.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, he's not letting me even ask my questions.

Chair JORDAN. You asked the questions. He gives an answer. You may not like what he says but that doesn't mean you get to interrupt him.

Ms. JAYAPAL. No, I'm asking. He's not answering my questions.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Mr. Chair, could we restore the gentlelady 45 seconds so she can complete her question?

Chair JORDAN. We'll give her an additional 30 seconds, which is what I said earlier.

Ms. JAYAPAL. I'm going to keep taking my time because here's the thing.

Chair JORDAN. No, you'll take the time that you get. You get 45 seconds.

Ms. JAYAPAL. You are not answering the question. The question is: Are these women credible?

Mr. PATEL. I have. You just don't like the answer.

Ms. JAYAPAL. It's a yes or no answer.

Mr. PATEL. I have answered the question.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Well, what is the answer?

Mr. PATEL. I keep telling you I'm the only FBI Director that has welcomed new information in this case. This administration is the only one that has welcomed any new information in this case.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Is there a yes or no whether the victims are credible?

Mr. PATEL. Present new credible information—present new information—

Ms. JAYAPAL. Are the victims being credible or not?

Mr. PATEL. The victims—I'll tell you what happened in the last Trump Administration.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Are they credible or not? You can't even say?

Mr. PATEL. Victims credibly came forward and you know what happened? President Trump authorized the indictments of Jeffrey Epstein.

Ms. JAYAPAL. President Trump called them a hoax.

Mr. PATEL. Not Biden, not Obama. No one else.

Ms. JAYAPAL. President Trump called the entire thing a Democratic hoax. I would like to ask you if you will meet—if you will meet—

Chair JORDAN. The gentelady's time has expired. I gave her the additional 45 seconds she requested. The gentelady yields back. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for his five minutes.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I would like to ask if you would meet with the women who were sexually abused—

Chair JORDAN. The time does not belong—the time does not belong to the gentelady from Washington. The time now belongs—

Ms. JAYAPAL. —and raped and groomed at the ages of 14–16 years old. Are you going to cover up—are you going to continue to cover up—

Chair JORDAN. I'm going to recognize the gentleman from New Jersey for his five minutes.

Ms. JAYAPAL. —for the rich and powerful men including those that might be on this Committee?

Mr. VAN DREW. I can yell too, Mr. Chair, but I don't want to yell about this.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Or are you going to allow them to testify?

Chair JORDAN. The time belongs to the gentleman from New Jersey. I appreciate the gentelady yielding back.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Are you going to allow them to testify, Mr. Patel? Will you allow them to testify to you, Mr. Patel?

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Patel, thank you for being here. I know it's been an interesting and difficult two days. I wasn't going to talk

about the Epstein thing because there's a lot of other issues that affect the FBI, but I have to say a few words.

I've sat here, I've listened to this, I've watched it, and my Democratic colleagues are so concerned now, Mr. Patel, all of a sudden.

Where were they last year? Where were they the year before? Where were they the year before that? Where was the last president in any of this?

Well, I know the only thing I see is a single letter from the Ranking Member that was sent in 2019 that he didn't like the plea deal and some people signed on to that.

Most of the truth, the real truth—let's be honest. Let's be intellectually honest. The real truth is we didn't hear from them at all, anybody of them. Hardly any of them ever mentioned it. Some of them didn't mention it at all until the beginning of this year.

Earlier in the year it started. Not one Democrat asked Director Wray. We all remember. Director Wray was here not once, not twice, but multiple times. Nobody asked Director Wray about Epstein before this Committee. Nobody was that concerned.

Where was the concern for the victims then? Where was the moral righteousness then? Where was the outrage then? Where was the sense of duty then? Where was the desire for accountability then? Where was the urgency for justice then?

Most of all, where the hell was the integrity then? You know what the truth is. Let's just say it, man. Tell the truth time.

The truth is it's politically useful for them to try to do this now even though they didn't give a damn about it in the past. You know what? That's an insult to the victims and that's an insult to America.

Continue to do the work you're doing. Continue to uncover what needs to be uncovered.

One real quick thing before I say anything, too. "9/11"—we know that was mishandled by the past director and by the past FBIs. There are family members here. There are family members who are concerned.

God Almighty, we want to get to the truth of that. I ask you, please, to meet with them, to talk to them, and to investigate this with truth.

In the Biden Administration we went through a very dark and difficult period of time. The FBI trust was broken with the people. Catholics were—this is the stuff we have been talking about—were labeled radical threats for praying in their churches with their rosaries.

Parents at school boards were called terrorists for standing up for their children. Hindu holy men in New Jersey—we have a large—the largest Hindu temple in the world. They were attacked. They were put up against the wall with guns to their heads.

It isn't just a Catholic or Christian thing. American Jews were targeted in colleges and universities, and a lot of folks in the FBI, in the past FBI—not this one—didn't give a damn. We can't go back to targeting religion. We can't go back to silencing free speech. The Biden Administration did that.

I got questions for you, hopefully, thoughtful questions that you can answer for us in a thoughtful way.

How is this FBI now under your leadership—how are we restoring trust for Catholics, for Hindus, for Jews, for parents, and for all the other—for just American people that were targeted by FISA because they had a different viewpoint? How are we restoring that trust in the FBI?

Mr. PATEL. Multiple ways, sir.

First, and maybe most importantly, is through transparency and providing the American public with the materials so they can see, read it themselves, as to what the abuses were in the past, whether it relates to the Catholic memo or the Hindu incident you talked about at the largest temple in North America.

Any institution of faith and any member of faith will not be investigated by this FBI because they are men and women of faith ever. Period.

Mr. VAN DREW. Nor should they. Nor should they. I don't mean to interrupt you, but my God, of all the amendments to the Constitution, freedom of speech, freedom to believe in what you want to believe in. I know you're standing up for that. Continue, I'm sorry.

Mr. PATEL. No, that's it, sir.

Mr. VAN DREW. OK. The Richmond memo was driven by a reliance on sources. The Southern Poverty Law Center—the words sound nice but the organization's not so nice and we have seen the Anti-Defamation League distort data that counts as well as violence.

Have you been able to identify and eliminate these kinds of partisan sources? We welcome all sources, but we want objectivity, neutrality, and decency in the way we report all this. Have you been able to uncover any information there? How do we make sure our sources are good in the future?

Mr. PATEL. We have reviewed the source processes that infiltrate any institutions of faith, and they will no longer be going into institutions of faith. They will be directed toward criminal activity and protecting the homeland, the two most important missions the FBI has, and that's what we're going to continue to do.

Mr. VAN DREW. Good, and I'll say this. There was a lot of bull today. A lot of you know what, and I'm not going to say it because I respect the institution, so much going on around here.

Continue to do the work of the people. You are here for that reason. The administration is here for that reason. It was weaponized and politicized—the FBI—in the past. I hope to God we never, ever see that again, one of the darkest parts of American history.

Thank you, Mr. Patel. I yield back.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Mr. Chair, I have a unanimous consent.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from New York is recognized for UC.

Mr. GOLDMAN. I would like to introduce a *CNN* article that explains how an alleged top leader of the MS-13 gang was dismissed. His case was dismissed in Brooklyn, so that he could be deported back to El Salvador even though he was charged with murder.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I have some unanimous consent—

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from Washington is recognized.

Ms. JAYAPAL. I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record an article titled “Justice Department told Trump in May that his name is among many in the Epstein files.”

I have another one that is a July 2025, article by *The New York Times* entitled “How a Frantic Scouring of the Epstein Files Consumed the Justice Department,” stating that DOJ and FBI employees reviewing the Epstein files were instructed to flag any mentions of Trump and other celebrities.

I have another unanimous consent request to enter into the record, an August 2025 article by the *Guardian* entitled, “Ghislaine Maxwell Hinted at Epstein’s Ties to Trump Officials: Why Wasn’t She Pressed for Names?” stating that Maxwell told Deputy U.S. Attorney Todd Blanche that some of the, quote, “cast of characters” around Epstein are in Trump’s cabinet.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. The Chair now recognizes the gentlelady from Pennsylvania.

Ms. SCANLON. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Mr. Patel, for coming before us to testify today.

I am concerned by your repeated claims that you’re not able to disclose anything further about the Epstein investigation files and that there’s no evidence of a broader conspiracy or other people who should be charged, because the American people aren’t buying that you’ve been transparent or that there’s nothing further to be seen.

In your exchange with my colleague Mr. Roy, you reiterated something that I heard you say yesterday in your Senate testimony and that under your direction the FBI will always follow the money. Is that right?

Mr. PATEL. The money did you say? Yes.

Ms. SCANLON. Yes, you said you’ll follow the money. That’s great.

Just now you said you’d welcome the opportunity to investigate new evidence. There has been significant recent reporting just in the last couple weeks that after Jeffrey Epstein was arrested four major banks flagged more than \$1.5 billion in suspicious transactions connected to him that suggested a massive conspiracy related to his child sex trafficking activities.

Director Patel, has the FBI reviewed the \$1.5 billion in suspicious bank transactions flagged to the government relating to Epstein and his coconspirators?

Mr. PATEL. I know the FBI has reviewed numerous SARs. I don’t know the totality of that number.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. Can you provide us with that number?

Mr. PATEL. I’ll get back to you.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. Have you initiated any new investigation of those bank transactions since, say, September 8th, when the new reporting came out?

Mr. PATEL. I’ll check with the Treasury Department because they’re the lead on that.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. So, Director Patel, how many individuals or entities has the FBI interviewed, subpoenaed, or compelled to testify? Can you give us those numbers with respect to these bank transactions?

Mr. PATEL. Not off the top of my head. I’ll have to work with Treasury.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. We're concerned because you say you're going after child predators but obviously, this is how you follow the money is if you follow the bank transactions that apparently enabled the child sex trafficking. Would you agree?

Mr. PATEL. We are. It's one of the valuable investigative tools is to follow the money.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. The Jeffrey Epstein's victims have asked us to ask you whether or not you've investigated Epstein's lawyers, the lawyers who facilitated those payments. Have you subpoenaed or questioned any of those lawyers?

Mr. PATEL. In 2018 and 2019 what I recollect is many, if not every one of those lawyers, was part of the investigation.

Ms. SCANLON. You weren't there at that time, right?

Mr. PATEL. I wasn't there.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. Can you get us the names and the numbers of who was investigated then with respect to those lawyers?

Mr. PATEL. As long as I'm allowed to release it, absolutely.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. Well, if we provide you with subpoenas, I assume you can release it. Is that right?

Mr. PATEL. We have a current subpoena and we're working with Congress to provide it.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. You've said that the Acosta investigation had an original sin. What do you mean by that?

Mr. PATEL. Basically, if you're looking at an actual pedophile ring what you should not do is limit the timeframe in which you're legally able to collect information.

Search warrants that Mr. Acosta utilized in 2006–2007 leading to the 2008 plea agreement had a very specific narrow window of years—I think three or four years.

Information pursuant to the legal process wasn't collected for 10–15 years or 20 years. It also—subpoenas were not sent out to hundreds of witnesses at the time, hundreds of victims at the time. None of that was done. None of these people were put in grand juries.

The totality of information from the jump instead of being this big was like this and that, in my opinion, is not how you run an investigation if you're trying to break a sex trafficking ring.

Ms. SCANLON. You're now in charge of the FBI. Why haven't you done that investigation?

Mr. PATEL. Great question and here's the answer. Simply because I am not able to go back 20 years and collect information that the courts had decided was already subject to search warrants. They have said, "this was in the investigation."

There's a nonprosecution agreement out of that plea and when the case was reopened—and this is where it comes into play—when the case was reopened in 2018 and 2019 the search warrants, again, were limited to the conduct of Jeffrey Epstein.

Now, whether that's right or wrong that's a different discussion. I'm telling you that's the information we reviewed.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. Well, that is a different discussion and I think the discussion we'd like to have today is why you aren't following the money with respect to the broader conspiracy that has been reported in *The New York Times* and elsewhere and that if you really want to attack the issue—if you wanted to attack the issue, if you

wanted to get to the bottom of it, if you wanted to disclose what really was involved in the Epstein files—the Epstein cover-up—that you would be taking very different actions than you are today.

I do want to seek unanimous consent to enter into the record *The New York Times* September 8, 2025, article, “How J.P. Morgan Enabled the Crimes of Jeffrey Epstein.” Also, an article dated July 17, 2025, in the Epstein case, “Follow the Money.”

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman—

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Chair?

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized.

Mr. RASKIN. Thank you much.

Pursuant to Clause 2, Case 6 of Rule 11, I move that the Committee subpoena the CEOs of four banks, JPMorgan—that’s Jamie Dimon; Bank of New York Mellon, Robin Vince; Bank of America, Brian Moynihan; and Deutsche Bank, Christian Sewing, to get the suspicious transaction reports. These four banks have flagged to the government \$1.5 billion in suspicious transactions related to the sex-trafficking crimes and conspiracy that Epstein, Maxwell, and all their collaborators—and as you know, Mr. Chair, we got the SARs reports for Hunter Biden totaling around \$20 million.

These \$1.5 billion in SARs reports we should get, especially since the Director doesn’t seem to be forthcoming. I request that we do this immediately to—

Chair JORDAN. I think the Director has been very forthcoming. We will hold any motion to subpoena any banks at the conclusion of the hearing.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. NEHLS. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Director Patel, for being here.

It is quite clear. It is quite clear that certain Members of this Committee—they want their 15 seconds on TV stamping and—maybe it’s for fundraising. Maybe they are struggling in their district; they need a little bump. They have turned the Committee into a clown show, and that is what we are seeing.

You are being unjustly attacked today. I watched the Senate hearings yesterday. You were attacked there. We know there is an agenda. There is always an agenda. It is the same characters with the same personalities, the same objective, and that is destroy the MAGA movement.

Your being attacked, Director, is because you are effective. You highlighted what you have been doing in D.C. with the President in reducing violent crime. You are very effective. Another individual that was very effective with meaningful debate and dialog was Charlie Kirk, and they killed him for it.

Charlie Kirk was a man of faith first and foremost. He loved his Lord Jesus. He loved his family, beautiful wife and beautiful children. Just a remarkable, honorable man that was silenced with this assassin’s bullet. I would say if Charlie Kirk lived in the biblical times, he would have been the 13th disciple. He would have been the 13th disciple.

We have a new Committee, if you are not aware, a new select Committee we got on January 6th. I am honored to be on that

Committee. I am looking forward to working with other Members to expose truth, questioning Federal agencies that were involved on January 6th, like the FBI played a role. We don't really know, Director, to what extent. We don't know.

The January 6th sham Committee was not formed by Nancy Pelosi to seek truth. It was nothing about getting to the truth about January 6th. Their sole mission was to damage Donald J. Trump and end his political career, and everybody knows it. That is what the purpose was. You know what is nice is I kind of get to ask the question, though, how did that work out for you? Donald J. Trump is back in the White House, and America loves him.

I spent 30 years in law enforcement. I am a retired sheriff from a large county in the great State of Texas. I have seen, Director—I have seen more enthusiasm and support for law enforcement today because of what you and Donald Trump have done over the last eight months to protect the American people.

The American people couldn't count on their government to protect them. Crime is rampant. Now, we have a President and an administration that puts the American people and their safety first.

It is interesting. A few minutes ago, a classmate reached out to me and sent me a—I told him—I said, yes, we got Director Patel in front of our Committee today. Andy wanted me—Andy Kane(?) wanted me to tell you—he said, quote, “Tell him we love him. Tell him we love him and all the brave warriors exposing the deep State.”

Kash, you are a great American, sir. You are a great American. Your work as the Director of the FBI is commendable. It is commendable, and I want to thank you, sir, thank you for your service. Keep up the good fight, brother. Don't let them tear you down. Keep up that good fight. You have it in you.

With that, sir, I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. Will the gentleman yield? Will the gentleman yield to me?

Mr. NEHLS. Sure.

Chair JORDAN. Director Patel, there were 26—the gentleman mentioned the Select Committee. There were 26 confidential human sources at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. Four entered the Capitol and thereby broke the law. Do you know if those individuals were being paid by the Wray FBI?

Mr. PATEL. We have provided 600 pages of documents to this Committee alone regarding January 6th. That is 600 pages more than any of my predecessors. Generally speaking, confidential human sources are always paid by the FBI. That is how it works. I can't speak to the specifics on each one and how much they made.

Chair JORDAN. We appreciate it. We have reviewed some of that material, and you gave us a lot of material that we didn't get from Director Wray. That specific question is important to the American people. Were people who were confidential human sources of the FBI who broke the law—one was recommended for prosecution, my understanding is, by the information we received from you. Were they actually paid by the very taxpayers who may have been charged with the same offense? That is important for us to understand.

Mr. PATEL. I'll get back to you on that.

Chair JORDAN. Thank you. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CORREA. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Welcome, Director Patel. I want to focus a little bit on domestic terrorism. We have a graph here, data up to 2021, but as you can tell, domestic terrorism is on the rise. Nation—our citizens under threat. We saw the assassination of Charlie Kirk, two assassination attempts on the President, a school shooting, Minnesota last month, and closer to home just a couple days ago, Huntington Beach, peaceful vigil for Charlie Kirk infiltrated by neo-Nazis who essentially made the local individuals attending that event fear for their safety.

All of us know that a lot of these domestic attacks are by lone wolves, but they do leave clues, social media or elsewhere. Director Patel, you are it. You are the thin, blue line, the FBI, your job is to protect our citizens back home from those that would harm us. You have to find the needle in the haystack. It takes a lot of work and a lot of resources.

Talking to my local sheriff this morning, said they are concerned. Federal cuts, Federal cuts to local grants that helped them do the job. Of course, let's not forget about other threats there are coming before us, like high-tech fraud. Local senior recently was talking to me about a text she had gotten, a demand by the IRS to send a payment immediately or the IRS agents were on their way to arrest this individual. Pretty gutsy stuff by folks probably from Europe, North Korea, Russia, China, people—OK—going after those precious savings our senior citizens rely on.

Yet, the President is proposing a budget cut of \$500 million or more to your organization, the FBI. You have said that that will essentially equate to about 1,300 less jobs at the FBI. I am going to ask you, essentially, what is it that we can do to help you do your job? A little concerned.

Friday Night Lights, one of the events I love to do on Friday nights—go to the local high school football game. Sit there at the stadium. You always say, "What if? What if?" You are the thin, blue line. Can you do your job cutting \$500 million from your budget?

Mr. PATEL. Thank you, sir. We are doing our job, and the distinction is, with the budget that we have, we are flexing more resources to the field. California is receiving the largest FBI plus-up of any State in the Union due to that plus-up. They are not getting a reduction. No State is getting a reduction. Every State is getting a plus-up.

I am utilizing the money that we have to first plus it up. The empty vacancies that we have—those haven't been filled in years, not under my leadership.

Mr. CORREA. Here is my concern. You are going to do well. You are doing more with less is what you are saying. Yet, we are about to vote on a budget that has \$88 million more to protect the Members of Congress, the executive branch, the Supreme Court. There is a contradiction here.

Back on Main Street, we are saying you can do more with less; you can protect them with less money. Yet, here in Washington, we are saying we need more money to protect the Members of Congress. There is a little contradiction here. Or maybe, sir, you ought

to talk to leadership about coming in with your management style to protect the Supreme Court, Congress, and the administration. Otherwise, it is essentially a hypocritical situation. We need more protection, yet folks on Main Street can do less.

Mr. PATEL. My concern is for the folks on Main Street. We also think we received over 300 million in the Big, Beautiful Bill. We are also receiving pots of money from our inner agency. This sort of 500 million cut isn't entirely accurate.

Mr. CORREA. You are still getting cut 200 million-plus. You are still moving your agents to do ICE work. You are leaving a lot of bases uncovered. I am not going to be argumentative with you, Director Patel. I am just saying, if that thin, blue line does not hold, people on Main Street will pay the price.

Mr. PATEL. I agree with you, sir.

Mr. CORREA. I am just look forward to working with you because I am very concerned that these kinds of budget cuts are short-sighted, especially when my local sheriff calls me and says, "We need more support, and we are looking at budget cuts."

Mr. PATEL. I'll work with you, sir.

Mr. CORREA. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I yield.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Mr. Chair, I have another unanimous consent request.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from New York is recognized for a unanimous consent.

Mr. GOLDMAN. I seek to introduce a December 2024, OIG report from the Department of Justice, which confirms the conclusion of the Bill Barr Justice Department that the so-called whistleblower, a disgruntled former employee of the Intelligence Committee, was not a credible witness and there were no further actions taken.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Chair, I would like to submit some items for the record.

Chair JORDAN. You bet. The gentleman from California.

Mr. CORREA. First, "Trump's deportation diverts FBI agents off child predator cases."

Second, "FBI Director backtracks on administration's proposed budget cuts."

Third, "Trump administration says 70 percent of ICE detainees do not have criminal convictions."

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. GOODEN. Thank you. Director, earlier this year, the Committee learned of new documents tied to the Crossfire Hurricane investigation and the Russian collusion hoax against President Trump. Your efforts in declassifying key documents tied to this investigation allowed the Committee to acquire thousands of pages that it did not have previously. Did any of your predecessors make any effort to declassify these documents?

Mr. PATEL. Not to the extent we have.

Mr. GOODEN. Did any of your predecessors share or leak any details that were classified at the time?

Mr. PATEL. There are ongoing leak investigations across the board at the Bureau related to this.

Mr. GOODEN. I believe one of those is Mr. Comey, and I thank you for continuing that investigation. Among the declassified documents are the Durham Report Annex, the Crossfire binder, and the Nellie Ohr criminal referral. Could you summarize for those watching what we know about the Russia collusion hoax so far?

Mr. PATEL. Well, sir, the record will speak that the Russia collusion matter was perpetrated by a political party to go overseas and obtain information from a foreign intelligence asset, only to have that information, which was demonstrably false, turned over to the FBI, who walked into a Federal FISA Secret Court and asked for a secret surveillance court order and lied to the Federal court. We know that because someone was convicted of it—and only to surveil the political opponent.

That is a massive scandal. We helped to expose it. In terms of the pages of productions, I provided 1,400 pages of production related to Crossfire Hurricane, and my predecessors have provided zero.

Mr. GOODEN. I appreciate that, and I appreciate your courage and commitment to declassifying these important documents for our review and hope that you will continue with this commitment. Can we expect to see more declassification efforts regarding the Crossfire Hurricane and Russia collusion hoax?

Mr. PATEL. Yes.

Mr. GOODEN. Thank you. I yield the remaining balance of my time to Chair Jordan.

Chair JORDAN. Oh. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Director, that is when it all started, right? The whole Russia—that is when it all began. Then, it was Muller. Then, it was impeachment. Then, it was Jack Smith, Fani Willis, and Alvin Bragg and you name it. It all started then, and that is why the gentleman from Texas wants to make sure we get all the information there.

I want to go back to when it was changed. We talked about this earlier. I just want to read to you what the CIA officer said to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Brennan refused to remove the dossier. When confronted with the dossier's main flaws, he responded, "Yes, but doesn't it ring true?"

That is what he initially said.

Then, when he was talking to this Committee, he said,

The CIA was very much opposed to having any reference or inclusion of the Steele Dossier in the intelligence community assessment.

On one hand, you got a witness who was there that said he refused to remove it even though he knew it was garbage. Then, he is, on the other hand, telling the Committee, "No, no, no. We didn't want anything to do with it. It shouldn't have been a part of the intelligence community assessment," which we know it was. You know it was. You found that.

Those are two entirely different stories. Mr. Brennan has some explaining to do, frankly, what happened there. You said earlier that this whole thing—and I think you said to Mr. Gooden this whole thing is being looked at as part of this grand conspiracy to undermine the President, whether it's Comey, Brennan, Clapper, former head of the Intelligence Committee, now a Senator from— whoever it is. That is all being looked at; is that accurate?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, sir.

Chair JORDAN. We appreciate that. Part of what is also being looked at—and the gentleman from Wisconsin brought this up earlier—what is a burn bag for, by the way?

Mr. PATEL. Generally speaking, the intelligence community obviously utilizes and possesses classified documents. Drafts of those classified documents and even ultimate finished products of those classified documents have to be recorded and/or discarded. If they are discarded, the only way we do that, the hard copies, is we literally put them in burn bags that are identified specifically for that purpose. There is a very exact courier system in which those burn bags are obtained and the material inside is destroyed.

Chair JORDAN. It is to get rid of the material, right?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, sir.

Chair JORDAN. It looks like the annex that Mr. Durham and his investigation had was put into a burn bag by your predecessor, I assume to be destroyed. Is that accurate?

Mr. PATEL. Without getting into the stylization of the evidence, anything that is put in a burn bag is for purposes of destruction.

Chair JORDAN. Do you find that interesting that the Durham Annex was placed in a burn bag, that you would discover that when you took over as the head of the FBI?

Mr. PATEL. We found a lot of information in a lot of burn bags.

Chair JORDAN. Well, we appreciate you finding that. We would like to know a little bit more about that, and we look forward to that information coming forward.

I appreciate the gentleman yielding. With that, we now recognize the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. NEGUSE. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for holding this hearing. Thank you, Director Patel, for being here today.

I have a couple of questions regarding a terrible shooting that occurred in Colorado, which is the State, as you may know, that I represent. You have testified previously about what you would describe as your efforts to provide more information regarding the investigation with respect to the horrific assassination of Mr. Kirk.

In that same vein, I am hoping you can provide this Committee and my constituents in Colorado with some clarity.

Mr. PATEL. Absolutely.

Mr. NEGUSE. As my colleagues know, in Evergreen, Colorado, Jefferson County, a county that I proudly represent, at Evergreen High School, a shooter ultimately injured two students. We are praying for their swift recovery.

There is an article here from *Colorado Public Radio*. The title is, quote, “FBI Was Already Investigating an Account that May Have Been Linked to the Evergreen Shooter.” You are familiar with the circumstances generally, Director, regarding this terrible tragedy?

Mr. PATEL. Of course. Yes.

Mr. NEGUSE. My understanding from the public reporting is that an organization reported to the FBI in July of this year regarding, which we hear from the article, that the FBI opened an assessment into a social media account user whose identity was unknown and who was discussing the planning of a mass shooting with threats nonspecific in nature—this is the FBI statement to the press—and that the FBI continued to work this assessment investigation to

identify the name and location of the user up and until September 10, 2025, which was the day of the tragedy.

Can you provide us with some clarity on what were the impediments to finding the account user and maybe describe in greater detail the FBI's work in that regard?

Mr. PATEL. Generally speaking, yes, because I know even though the shooter is deceased, the investigation is—we're not done. The impediments to finding these individuals—and you have a great point. We had two huge tragedies in the span of days in this country, the school shooting in Evergreen, Colorado, being one of them.

Proactively going out onto these social media platforms, which are so large, is our biggest impediment. We need to rely on the service providers. There is actual legislation I can't remember the name of that's up for renewal which will—and at the end of the month—which gives service providers the ability to report that information in from their end without liability.

We need that to continue because, while the FBI has so many people and the police are great at doing it, there are just too many platforms to cover down on.

Mr. NEGUSE. I appreciate that, Director Patel. I think we are certainly—I am interested in continuing this conversation because the reporting suggests that there is a pattern and that ultimately, we want to make sure that law enforcement is able to prevent this kind of tragedy from happening in the future.

I have a question. It is not meant as a gotcha question, so just to frame it there. It is in regard to some reporting around a periodic transaction report that you had filed earlier, a periodic transaction report that you had filed earlier this year. This is in July. Pursuant to ethical obligations as a Senior Executive official. You remember filing that in July?

Mr. PATEL. Yes.

Mr. NEGUSE. In that report, as best as I can surmise, you disclosed that you divested \$100,000 or more in a variety of different stocks—

Mr. PATEL. Right.

Mr. NEGUSE. —which I presume is pursuant to the ethics agreement that you negotiated with the Department of Justice.

Mr. PATEL. Yes. In that same report, there's a disclosure regarding purchases of two different—well, rather, two different transactions, so between \$15,000–\$50,000 in a national coffee house chain and between \$50,000–\$100,000 in a semiconductor company on May 9th and May 12th.

Mr. NEGUSE. Are those transactions that you are doing personally? Are these through a stockbroker, or are these transactions that you are handling yourself?

Mr. PATEL. How they happen is I submit proposals under DOJ guidance to say, "Hey, I would like to trade this or that." They run their review—and the FBI runs their review, and then they come back and say yes or no. Then, I make the transaction.

Mr. NEGUSE. Is there a reason that you decided to make the purchases with those two companies?

Mr. PATEL. Generally speaking, before I got this job, I was trading stocks, but not a lot, like most people. I just follow certain industries, you know? I thought that would be a good investment.

Mr. NEGUSE. The reason why I ask—right? Because you had divested in other companies.

Mr. PATEL. Yes.

Mr. NEGUSE. I presume that wasn't because there were actual conflicts; it is just that you wanted to avoid an appearance of impropriety.

Mr. PATEL. It was both.

Mr. NEGUSE. Both. Not all the companies were conflicts that you divested from.

Mr. PATEL. Whatever, I didn't make the call. They make the call.

Mr. NEGUSE. Sure.

Mr. PATEL. Yes.

Mr. NEGUSE. I guess my point would be—the reason why I asked this, when I said it is not a gotcha—I have for years led an effort here in Congress to try to ban Members of Congress, Senior Executive officials, from trading stocks. It is bipartisan in nature. We are working really hard to get that done, Republicans and Democrats.

You can understand given your role, given the nature of the position that you hold as the leader of the largest law enforcement agency in our country, that divesting entirely, not doing day trading now would be something that would be in the interest of the American people. I just would hope you will consider that and make—moving forward that perhaps not purchasing the stocks in individual companies I would think would be something that would be worth pursuing.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman's time is—

Mr. NEGUSE. If you—yes, I am happy to give the witness an opportunity to—

Mr. PATEL. Thank you. I'll work with you on it.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. MOORE. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Director Patel, for being here today.

Knowing that classified documents confirm that the intelligence community under President Barack Obama knowingly relied on unverified and fraudulent evidence to manufacture a false claim that Russia in fact meddled in the 2016 election, is there more to be done to uncover the depths and origins of the Russian collusion hoax?

Mr. PATEL. There is, and we're doing it.

Mr. MOORE. Why should Americans still care about that, Director Patel?

Mr. PATEL. Everybody wants to talk about a weaponized bureaucracy. When we put out the facts about a weaponized bureaucracy, not because I said so, but because we found the files and documents, because we found the 302s and the 1023s, then it becomes a political football.

My job is to continue to put out that information and let the American public read it for themselves when I'm lawfully able to do so. That's been my commitment on any subject, Russiagate or otherwise. Wherever the law allows me to do it, I will do it.

Mr. MOORE. When I first came in 2020, the No. 1 concern as I was doing town halls was the weaponization of the government against the American citizen. Are there things that you are doing, structural reforms that—implementing so that the FBI cannot be

weaponized again, whether it is against President Trump or future elected Presidents?

Mr. PATEL. Well, it shouldn't be weaponized against anyone. The structural reform is simple. If you're going to go after a political individual or someone seeking political office, there has to be a grounded basis in law and fact to open a criminal investigation. If there's not, the investigation isn't even opened.

I've also gone back and reviewed other cases that were opened in prior administrations related to public officials. We've closed a number of them because we felt that some of these actions were weaponized on either side of the aisle. I felt it wholly inappropriate for the FBI to be playing umpire and referee among these decision-makers when there was no factual or legal basis to continue those investigations. I shut them down.

Mr. MOORE. That is so desperately needed because we need to restore trust in law enforcement and certainly in the DOJ and the FBI so the American people don't fear the very government that is supposed to protect them. Thank you for doing that.

On August 11th, you released to the Committee documents concerning leak investigations that began in 2017. Do you believe these leaks were accidental, or were they intentional to influence public opinion against President Trump?

Mr. PATEL. When I can publicly make a final decision on that, either through a recommendation of charging that the DOJ makes or findings that I have, I'm able to do so. They're still not complete.

Mr. MOORE. Why did the FBI under Director Comey want to undermine the Trump Administration?

Mr. PATEL. I don't know. You'll have to ask him.

Mr. MOORE. Think it might have been political? How will Director Comey be held accountable for his leaks in classified information concerning the Russian collusion hoax?

Mr. PATEL. Well, anyone—doesn't matter what you did before or what seat you were in. If you leak classified information, that's illegal. We will investigate it fully. If we can bring enough evidence to recommend charges to the Department of Justice, we will.

As you know, in these leak investigations, it's very difficult to produce the information necessary. We know leaks happen. They literally happen every week. It's one of the most destructive things to this country. Media receives classified information beneficial to one side or the other.

I'm a fan of none of it, and I want to shut all it down. We need to bring some real cases to deter individuals from doing that. That's my focus.

Mr. MOORE. What was Comey's role in creating the ICA?

Mr. PATEL. Speaking from my memory, as the head of the FBI, he was charged under then Director Brennan and Director Clapper and the other IC elements to come in with the NSA, CIA, FBI, and ODNI, and put together a collection of information on how the information surrounding Russiagate came together. He represented the FBI in that.

Mr. MOORE. Was former Director of CIA John Brennan—he denied that the Steele Dossier was used in creating the ICA; is that true?

Mr. PATEL. Well, without commenting on him, the FISA has been released, and the dossier was in the FISA. It was in four FISAs. I'll let the public decide.

Mr. MOORE. Well, former Director Brennan actually denied repeatedly that he pushed or the Steele Dossier to be included in the ICA. Is that true?

Mr. PATEL. I'll let his testimony speak for itself, but then-Deputy Director Andy McCabe also testified to the House Intelligence Committee, which has now been declassified, that were there no Steele Dossier, there would have been no FISA.

Mr. MOORE. Well, my time is getting close, but let me tell you this, sir, and one of my colleagues from Texas said thank you for the job you are doing. You are making the American people safe. You are restoring trust in these agencies that many of us have lost trust in. Thank you for the work you are doing. That thin, blue line—you are doing a fine job, and we want to let you know we appreciate it.

Mr. PATEL. Thank you.

Mr. MOORE. Thank you. God bless you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady from California is recognized.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Director, for coming here today.

Actually, thank you for your response to my colleague from New York who asked you earlier about a violent extremism, and you said that there is violent extreme ideology on both sides. You actually alluded to that same statement yesterday in the Senate.

I, too, have some questions I would like to ask you. These are not gotcha questions, and just deny, please, what you deem to be false. Dylann Roof, who followed White supremacist propaganda, murdered nine Black parishioners in Charleston in 2015. Do you deny this?

Mr. PATEL. I'm sorry. Dylann Ruth?

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Roof.

Mr. PATEL. Roof? Can you give me some more information?

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Do you—head of the FBI, you probably know this. If you don't know, that is fine.

Mr. PATEL. Can you give me a reminder? I've got a lot in front of me.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. It was national news. Robert Bowers murdered 11 Jewish worshipers in Pittsburgh in 2018.

Mr. PATEL. I do remember that.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. It was the deadliest anti-Semitic attack. Do you admit that this happened?

Mr. PATEL. Yes. I'm not saying the other thing didn't happen. I'm just asking for a little information.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Patrick Crusius, who posted a manifesto about a Hispanic invasion, walked into a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, in 2019 and began firing. He murdered 23 people that day, and the youngest was 15. Do you admit or deny that this happened?

Mr. PATEL. I'll take your presentation as accurate.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. All right. Well, I have to say all these cases have been adjudicated. As I said, they are not gotcha ques-

tions. These incidents were national news. As Director of the FBI, you have access to all this information.

In 2022, Payton Gendron walked into a supermarket in a Black neighborhood in Buffalo, New York, and started shooting. He murdered 10 people that day. On September 10th, your friend Charlie Kirk was assassinated. Tyler Robinson has been taken into custody and charged, but also on that day, Desmond Holly, a 16-year-old White male, shot and injured two students at a high school in Colorado before killing himself. According to the Anti-Defamation League, he had a fascination with mass shootings and White supremacy.

Do you admit to/deny these facts?

Mr. PATEL. Those happened.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. OK. Your predecessor, former FBI Director Christopher Wray, said that one of the most dangerous concerns is that racially motivated violent extremism, especially White supremacist, has been the biggest chunk of our domestic terrorism cases and is responsible for the most lethal attacks over the last decade.

Do you admit or deny that he said this?

Mr. PATEL. I'll let the record reflect that whatever he said was what he said.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. All right. Do you agree?

Mr. PATEL. That there are racially motivated crimes being committed in America? Yes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Yes, especially White supremacist, which is the biggest chunk of our domestic terrorism. I am glad that you said this. Last week, President Trump was asked if there were extremists on both the Left and the Right. He was actually asked this by *Fox and Friends*. His exact words were,

I'll tell you something that is going to get me in trouble, but I couldn't care less. The radicals on the Right oftentimes are radical because they don't want to see crime. The radicals on the Left are the problem, and they're vicious, and they're horrible, and they're politically savvy.

Do you agree with the President?

Mr. PATEL. I don't speak for the President. The President speaks for himself.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Do you agree with the President?

Mr. PATEL. On what matter?

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. On the question that I just asked. Do you agree with his statement about the radical Left?

Mr. PATEL. That there's ideology that's driving violence on both sides? Yes, that's what he acknowledged.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. No, he didn't. He didn't. I'm glad that you're saying that and actually creating some separation between you and the President. I'm glad that you—

Mr. PATEL. That's literally not what happened. He said both.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. —are acknowledging that there is violent extremism on both sides. What is interesting is that the research arm of the Department of Justice, the National Institute of Justice—do you know what that is?

Mr. PATEL. I'm familiar with them.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. OK. Great. It is the research arm of the Department of Justice, and it published an article in 2024 devoted

to domestic radicalization, violent extremism, and terrorism. I have it. It is interesting that it is no longer on the website. It has been scrubbed. I ask these questions because what makes a strong qualified director of any business, of any household, of the FBI, what makes a reputable prosecutor, is not lapdog loyalty but a commitment to the creed that evidence is agnostic and that the evidence will lead you to making the right decision. Your job—no one's job is to like the data or the evidence. It is to collect it. That is how you gain trust.

Mr. Chair, I would like to enter into the record the following:

First, "White Supremacist Group Stands By Racist Ideology."

Second, "Dylann Roof, the Radicalization of the Alt Right, and Ritualized Racial Violence."

Third, "How Robert Bowers Went from Conservative to White Nationalist."

Fourth, "Patrick Crusius Believed He Was Fulfilling Trump's Wishes in El Paso Attack, His Attorney Said."

Fifth, "Buffalo Shooting: How Far-Right Killers are Radicalized Online."

Sixth, "Evergreen High School Shooter's Online Activity Reveals Fascination with Mass Shootings, White Supremacy."

Seventh, "Murder and Extremism in the United States in 2024," a report by the Anti-Defamation League.

Eighth, the report that was scrubbed from the DOJ just recently, National Institute of Justice Journal Focusing on Domestic Radicalization, Violent Extremism, and Terrorism.

Ninth, the libertarian think tank Cato and their analysis on violent extremism and the Right rising in extremist acts.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Thank you, and I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady yields back. The gentlelady from Wyoming is recognized.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Just very quickly, Director Patel, thank you for being here, for your service to this country, and for the transparency that you have brought to the FBI and for the American people, transparency that was absolutely nonexistent in the Biden Administration and FBI.

I believe that you might have been asked earlier about whether you had had an opportunity to visit with any of Epstein's legal counsel. Were you asked that question earlier?

Mr. PATEL. I think so.

Ms. HAGEMAN. OK. One of the legal counsels or legal fixers for Mr. Epstein was Stacey Plaskett, the Democrat delegate to Congress from the Virgin Islands. Perhaps for those on the other side who are interested in talking to Jeffrey Epstein's attorneys, they could sure visit with one of their own colleagues.

I want to focus on something that I think is very important that has not been addressed enough today, and that is related to the consequences of the Biden open border.

One consequence of the Biden border crisis is the impact that it continues to have on our Tribal communities with the cartels taking advantage of our open borders, our domestic and drug cartels, by infiltrating our reservations and bringing violence, drugs, murder, trafficking and more.

Last year when I questioned the Attorney General Garland about what the DOJ was doing to protect these communities, he simply deflected responsibility and said that Congress had not appropriated sufficient resources for them to be able to protect our Tribal communities.

Mr. Patel, what is the Trump FBI doing to counter the drug cartel infiltration and other violent crime targeting our Native American communities?

Mr. PATEL. Thank you. It only took more than half of this proceeding to talk about one of the priorities that the FBI has, which is crimes on Tribal lands.

Every single crime that we have been talking about, whether it is child predators, human trafficking, narco traffickers, and murder, they all happen on Tribal land as well. I said since the beginning it is a priority, which is why we launched Operation Not Forgotten on Tribal lands.

I am the first FBI Director to meet with the staff and Tribal leaders here in Washington, DC, and elsewhere, and invited them into my office in headquarters to see them, because I need engagement with Tribal leadership, and I need our police and FBI agency engaging with Tribal leadership, otherwise we are not going to break through.

We have 1,900 Indian Country cases open right now. We have got 600 indictments this year alone. We cannot forget Tribal lands.

Every single one of those people lives in the United States of America. It is an absolute priority to protect them and their children, just as it is anyone else.

Ms. HAGEMAN. It is fair to say that what Larry Garland testified that they did not, that the FBI and DOJ did not have the resources to address that, this was an absolutely false statement. Would you agree with me?

Mr. PATEL. It is a decision by him not to do so. That is not my decision.

Ms. HAGEMAN. At the end of August, the U.S. Attorney and FBI announced that nearly 100 personnel representing members of the Safe Trails Task Force operated their Wyoming's Wind River Reservation to assist with reducing drug trafficking and illegal guns.

Director Patel, you have routinely stated that it is your mission to partner with and strengthen local and State law enforcement partners. How do the task force and other FBI efforts bring Tribal law enforcement into this process?

Mr. PATEL. The major problem with Tribal lands is the sheer terrain geography and the amount of coverage that they have on land versus the personnel they have to do it.

What we have done is constantly surge resources to Tribal lands across this country on a 30-, 60-, 90-day rotating basis, reporting back to us saying who needs more. What we found is that most of these lands can be assisted by our Counter UAS program, our drone capabilities.

We are going to do it, because what is happening is the Mexican drug cartels are literally flying overhead, dropping their cargo, their narcotics onto this land where no one is looking, and then it is being disseminated to children, to youth, and to adults on that land and killing them.

We have got to stop it before it gets dropped off.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Well, and your testimony proves that the Biden Administration did not lack the resources to address drug and violent crime in Tribal communities or around the United States. It, instead, expended and wasted these resources investigating parents, Catholics, we now find out Turning Point USA, the RNC, and Republican organizations rather than protecting our Native Americans by closing the border. Is that fair?

Mr. PATEL. I think so.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Wonderful. Thank you. I do appreciate the work that you have done in this regard.

I was previously the Chair of the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs with the Natural Resources Committee. Safety and security on our reservations and for our Tribal members have been one of our priorities, one of my priorities. I very much appreciate the work that the FBI has done.

Let me know if there is anything else I can do to help you.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. PATEL. I will, ma'am.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady yields back. The gentlelady from Georgia is recognized.

Ms. MCBATH. Thank you, Chair. Thank you for coming today, Mr. Patel.

In the past few months, the country has experienced a string of horrific high-profile attacks that have been motivated by racial hatreds and political ideology.

A shooter attacked the CDC headquarters, firing hundreds of rounds and killing a police officer. An arsonist set first to the Pennsylvania Governor, Josh Shapiro's residence with the Governor and his family actually inside. Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband were assassinated earlier this year. Charlie Kirk was murdered last week. Bomb threats have been made against HBCUs and the DNC. The list goes on and on.

I only have just a few minutes today, so I don't want to take a lot of time to go into all the countless and devastating violent crimes and incidents that have happened at our schools, or on our streets, and in the communities that have just been happening all year long.

Mr. Patel, just yes or no, is this type of political violence ever acceptable in your eyes?

Mr. PATEL. No.

Ms. MCBATH. I am glad that we agree that these heinous acts designed to instill fear and division in our Nation are never, ever acceptable, that each of these incidents that has recently taken place under your watch. The FBI's website states that protecting the United States from terrorist acts is the FBI's No. 1 priority, including from domestic terrorists. Is this still your No. 1 priority?

Mr. PATEL. Domestic terrorism?

Ms. MCBATH. Preventing domestic terrorism.

Mr. PATEL. The our number priorities are protecting the homeland, international terrorism, and crushing violent crime. Domestic terrorism sort of interlays between both of those.

Ms. MCBATH. Well, then I am glad that you are giving us the right answer. Unfortunately, your actions tend to tell a different story.

Earlier this year you gutted the ranks of FBI's Domestic Terrorism Operations Section. This is the section of the FBI that is most directly responsible for addressing political violence in our country by preventing attacks from occurring and effectively responding to them if they do.

The agents in this section are the ones who stopped an individual stockpiling weapons who planned to attack schools and churches in Florida, and seized bombs made by an ISIS sympathizer in New Orleans.

Instead of ensuring that this section has all the resources that it needs at a time when its mission is critical, you fired its decorated veteran FBI agents who have served their country proudly under Republican and both Democratic presidents, and you scrapped the tools that they developed to fight domestic terrorism, including the National Domestic Terrorism Incident Data base.

Mr. PATEL. Most of that is just not true. We have 1,700 current DT managed programs. We are up 300 percent in the amount of cases we brought against nihilistic, violent extremists, including 764 wishing to harm our children.

The FBI and the men and women are getting after that problem set more than ever because I have unleashed them to do so. Any insinuation that these tragic occurrences across the country are somehow singularly my fault are disgusting because that water goes downhill from the FBI.

Ms. MCBATH. Mr. Patel, I am going to reclaim my time.

Mr. PATEL. They are not responsible for for it.

Ms. MCBATH. Mr. Patel, I am going to reclaim my time.

Mr. PATEL. I am happy to work with you to get them what they need.

Ms. MCBATH. Mr. Chair, unanimous request—

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady controls the time. Unanimous consent request. You will state the request.

Ms. MCBATH. Thank you very much.

I have unanimous request to put into the record an article from *Reuters* titled "FBI scales back staffing, tracking of domestic terrorism probes, sources say."

Thank you very much.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Ms. MCBATH. I appreciate that.

Mr. Patel, and it isn't just the Domestic Terrorism Operations Section. Under your watch, agents are fully diverting their attention to these anti-immigrant and city takeover operations, leaving our children vulnerable to dangerous networks of online predators, both domestic and international.

You pulled more than 120 FBI agents from their normal duties to operate sobriety checks and conduct traffic stops, exposing the FBI's fleet of unmarked cars, and thereby making it harder for the FBI to combat violent criminal gangs, foreign intelligence services, drug traffickers, and the process.

Mr. PATEL. That is simply not true. If we were not able to do two things at one time how would be seizing record amounts of fentanyl.

Ms. MCBATH. Mr. Patel, I reclaim my time. I reclaim my time.

Mr. PATEL. Twenty-three thousand violent felons have been arrested.

Ms. MCBATH. Mr. Chair, unanimous consent—

Chair JORDAN. The time belongs to the gentlelady. The time belongs to the gentlelady from Georgia.

Ms. MCBATH. Thank you very much.

This request basically is, it is an article from *Reuters* which quotes law enforcement officers familiar with agents who once covered child exploitation cases but now focus on immigration and child exclusive. “Thousands of agents diverted to Trump immigration crackdown.”

Mr. Patel, in the short time I have left, your tenure as Director of FBI has been somewhat problematic. Americans are less safe, less—definitely less, less safe under your watch. You have gutted the FBI’s ability to keep safe from domestic terrorism. You have sent FBI agents to conduct traffic stops and round up hardworking immigrants who pose no danger to public safety, people even President Trump referred to as good, longtime workers. Their job is to protect and serve the American public—

Chair JORDAN. The time of the gentlelady—

Ms. MCBATH. —and, yet, spend their time protecting heinous individuals and using the FBI to serve as a political circus. You at times have appeared unequipped for this. I yield.

Chair JORDAN. The time of the gentlelady has expired. The gentlelady yields back.

Mr. PATEL. May I respond.

Chair JORDAN. Sure can.

Mr. PATEL. Simply put, what is it? Are we failing? If we are failing, how are we arresting 23,000 violent felons, twice as many as this time last year?

Are we failing? Because if we are failing, how are we seizing 1,500 kilograms of meth, 25 percent increase from last year?

Are we failing? Because we captured four top 10 FBI’s Most Wanted from around the world in seven months. That is more than the entirety of the last Administration.

Are we failing? Because we put 1,500 child predators in prison.

Are we failing? Because we dismantled 300 human trafficking networks.

Which is it? You don’t like me, that is fine. Don’t you dare disparage the men and women in the FBI that are producing record results in historic fashion to protect this country. They are kicking ass for America, and they are going to continue to do so.

Chair JORDAN. We appreciate your leadership. The gentlelady from Florida is recognized.

Ms. LEE. When I was home recently, I met with the agents leading the Tampa office of the FBI. I saw what they are focused on in my community: Stopping drug traffickers, rescuing children from exploitation, fighting cybercrime, protecting us from acts of terrorism, and foreign and domestic. I know from my time as a Fed-

eral prosecutor and a judge that this work by the Bureau doesn't make headlines, but it is happening every single day.

At the top, accountability is necessary, transparency is critical. Today we have seen an effort not just to diminish but to distort the work of Director Patel and the agents he leads.

If we really care about transparency and about truth, then what we owe to the American people is this reality, that thousands of dedicated professionals at the FBI wake up every single day thinking not about themselves but about this country, and keeping every single one of us and our children safe from harm.

Director Patel, I would like to hear from you the facts about what the FBI is doing and your efforts to fight crime.

Director Patel, isn't it correct that since January 20, 2025, the FBI has made over 25,000 immigration-related arrests, including 350 members of Tren de Aragua, and 195 members of MS-13?

Mr. PATEL. Those numbers are accurate. The Tren de Aragua numbers are up over 350 percent from the year before.

Ms. LEE. During that same period hasn't the FBI seized over 66,000 kilos of cocaine, 6,000 kilos of meth, and 1,500 kilos of fentanyl?

Mr. PATEL. Not to be nitpicky, but it is 89,000 kilos of cocaine, and 7,300 kilograms of meth.

Ms. LEE. Isn't it also true that the FBI Tampa Division's Panama Strike Force specifically seized nearly 67,000 kilos of cocaine valued at more than \$1.6 billion from illicit maritime vessels?

Mr. PATEL. One of our best operations out of the Port of Tampa. I was down there in South Florida when PANEX did their work.

Ms. LEE. Director Patel, since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack, the FBI has been a coleader of the Joint Task Force October 7th. Isn't it correct that this task force is actively working to bring justice for victims and to prevent terrorist infiltration at our borders?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, ma'am.

Ms. LEE. Since January 20th, hasn't the FBI arrested 59 foreign intelligence operatives for spying or smuggling dangerous material into the United States?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, we have. That is on track to be more than 25 percent more than the year before.

Ms. LEE. The FBI has also been leading operations against major cyber threat actors, including those from Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea; isn't that right?

Mr. PATEL. A 17 percent increase from year-to-date last year.

Ms. LEE. Director Patel, the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force has continued to investigate predators who target children online and across our communities. How significant is that threat today?

What results have you seen under your tenure in bringing these offenders to justice?

Mr. PATEL. We have under Operation Greyskull dismantled Dark Web units that are operating online, not just in the United States but across the world to do our children harm. We have taken into custody more suspects than ever before on those who seek to harm our children.

That is what the men and women of the FBI do, and that is what they are going to continue to do. Those are the real results when

you let good cops be cops, and when you let us get on these platforms and expose them to the public and show them the harms of these predators on these online gaming systems and social media systems.

We need more help from Congress to allow us more authorities to do that work.

Ms. LEE. The FBI Laboratory manages the combined DNA Index System, or CODEX, which compares over 25 million DNA profiles and aids more than 125 investigations each day.

Director Patel, why is this important to law enforcement nationwide?

Mr. PATEL. All the law enforcement relies on our CJIS operation out of West Virginia. What that does is allow 19,000 agencies to come in and say, hey, does this guy have a criminal history? Hey, is this an illegal firearm? Do we have a DNA hit, like we did in these recent assassinations?

That is what the FBI brings there, because local and State law enforcement agencies doesn't have that capability. We are doing it 24/7/365. CJIS does not close for one minute.

Ms. LEE. In your testimony you noted that the FBI has ongoing counterintelligence investigations into China, Iran, and Russia across all 55 field offices.

Why is it essential to maintain that scope of coverage? What success can you point to in disrupting the Nation State actors?

Mr. PATEL. Our biggest threats involving the Nation State actors are the PRC, Russia, and China. They are up 33 percent, 83 percent, and 60 percent respectively in arrests alone this year.

Those Nation State actors wish to do harm in our infrastructure, our critical infrastructure system, our energy, and our water supply. Also, go after and target individuals and senior citizens and take their money through online pig butchering schemes which we have exposed in Cambodia by way of the CCP.

This is groundbreaking work that the American public should be seeing that their FBI is doing. I am happy to have the opportunity to report on it.

Ms. LEE. Thank you, Director Patel. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady yields back. The gentlelady from—

Ms. MCBATH. Mr. Chair, I have a couple UCs.

Chair JORDAN. Unanimous consent.

Ms. MCBATH. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

In response to Mr. Patel's making those remarks that maybe our colleagues are disparaging the men and women of the FBI I would like to enter into the record three unanimous consent requests.

First, entitled "FBI using polygraphs to test officials loyalty."

Second, entitled "Kash Patel knowingly broke law when firing top officials, lawsuit alleges," published by *NBC*.

Third, entitled, "FBI forces out more leaders, including ex-director who fought Trump demand for January 6th agents names."

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Ms. MCBATH. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from Vermont is recognized.

Ms. BALINT. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Director Patel, thank you for being with us today. I appreciate your time.

Let me say at the top, political violence should have no place in this country. I strongly, unequivocally condemn the killing of Charlie Kirk last week.

This is exactly the kind of case that warrants a swift and thorough investigation by the FBI.

What shouldn't be happening, however, is this Administration(s) seeming attempt to exploit Mr. Kirk's death within minutes of this horrible, horrible assassination, dividing us even further, without knowing enough about the killer's complicated, confused political ideology, and the extent of his motivation.

This week Vice President Vance claimed that this is "an extremely destructive movement of Left-wing extremism," and said that "it's part of the reason why Charlie was killed." He pledged to go after organizations on the Left.

Director Patel, it was just three months ago that Melissa Hortman, the Minnesota House Speaker, and her husband Mark were shot to death in their home in the middle of the night by a self-identified Right-wing extremist and Trump supporter.

When that assassination happened, the FBI released a written statement denouncing the killings and pledging to hold the killer accountable. I thank the Bureau for that. It was clear, concise, and to the point.

When you compare that statement to the over 50 mentions of the Charlie Kirk killing and just four for the Hortmans on accounts affiliated with the FBI and your personal account, it appears to many Americans that you are valuing some lives more than others. That is painful. This is what I am hearing from my constituents. I just want to convey that to you.

The Vice President didn't even call on Right-wing organizations to tone down their rhetoric after that horrific killing in Minnesota. He never once spoke about dismantling conservative institutions.

This week, when the President was asked by a reporter about Speaker Hortman, he claimed he didn't even know who she was. Most of the most high-profile assassinations of an elected official in recent memory and the President claims to know nothing about it, hasn't even heard of it, is absolutely devastating for her colleagues and for her family.

We all can agree in this room that we have to stop this political violence.

My first question to you is, Director Patel, what is your plan as Director of the FBI to turn down the temperature, especially in light of the fact that it seems like Members of the Administration are reacting to political violence based on party affiliation. What is your plan?

Mr. PATEL. I can only speak for myself and the FBI.

Ms. BALINT. Of course.

Mr. PATEL. What we are doing is, we mentioned earlier, we are following the money. Because whatever attack you are describing—and they are all despicable, equally so—people need money to operate. People need money to conduct these attacks and to conduct these investigations.

What we are doing is finding the people that supported this infrastructure system. Because even when you say there is a lone,

quote, “lone wolf actor,” he is not truly a “lone wolf actor.” Something happened along the way.

Ms. BALINT. I agree. Just because we have such little time, are you making a commitment right now to follow where the evidence goes in investigating whether it is violence on the Left or the Right?

Because over the last 10 years when you look at the ideology—I want to followup on what my colleague from California said—when you look at the data and you look at the Anti-Defamation League data, 96 percent of ideological motivated killings were committed by the Right-wing.

When you look at the Institute of Justice Report that she cited, it is five times the number that—five times the number of far-Left extremist incidents are perpetrated by far Right.

It has been reported—and she mentioned this—that as of September 12, 2025, just two days after Charlie Kirk’s killing, that the DOJ removed that report from the DOJ website. That is why Americans are concerned that there seems to be a separate system of justice that if you are a Republican, and you are attacked, you will get the full weight and authority of the FBI and this Administration.

If you are somebody serving in the Minnesota State Legislature and you are assassinated in your home that the response is different. To ignore the threats from the Right, or try to do a both/and, when there are multiple instances when it is overwhelmingly coming from the Right, this is a disservice. Americans want to know that whoever they are, whatever their political affiliation, that the response is going to be the same, and it is going to be done with the same diligence.

I am wondering if you will commit to me right now that you will be a voice right now standing up to those voices in the Administration that are adding to the violent rhetoric right now. That is what I am asking you, will you commit to this?

Chair JORDAN. The time of the gentlelady has expired. The gentleman can respond.

Mr. PATEL. My voice will be through the investigations that the FBI conducts. We will conduct them all lawfully and equally.

Ms. BALINT. Can we expect in the future that your tweets related to one killing will be the same level of concern?

Chair JORDAN. The time of gentlelady has expired. The time of the gentlelady has expired. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. HUNT. Thank you, sir. Director Patel, thank you for being here today.

Most importantly, thank you for restoring trust and faith in the FBI, which has been severely eroded under the Biden Administration. Thank you for your service, your continued service in this capacity.

On April 7, 2024, Charlie posted on X,

Assassination culture is spreading from the Left. Forty-eight percent of liberals say it would be at least somewhat justified to murder Elon Musk. Fifty-five percent said the same about Donald Trump, and California activists are naming ballot measures after Luigi Mangione. The Left is being whipped into a violent frenzy. Any setback, whether losing an election or losing a court case, justifies a maximally violent response.

Unfortunately for Charlie, that reaction also came when they couldn't win a debate on a college campus.

You cannot be intellectually honest and say that this problem is on both sides. It is not just what happened to President Trump, it is also what just happened to Charlie. We have gotten to a point in America where violence is encouraged.

We have a former President of the United States that opens up his campaign in 2019, that is Joe Biden, by saying that his opponent is an "existential threat to this country. Houston, we have a problem."

People that you disagree with are not existential threats. They are not Nazis. They are not fascists. They are not racists. They are not deplorable. They are not irredeemable. They are your fellow Americans who have a different perspective on how government should run and what government should look like: Whether or not we should have strong sovereign borders; whether or not we should have safe communities; whether or not we should have places to worship our god and not worry about being shot; whether or not we lived in communities and cities that are not overwhelmed by drugs and crime; whether or not we have two genders; and whether or not we have commonsense in our policies and our values.

If you want to believe these things are not existential threats, I happen to be one of those people that believes all of the above and, as someone that served this country in combat, I am not an existential threat to this country because I swore to protect her.

I also want to point out have many cities have you seen burned to the ground since Charlie Kirk's death? Zero. No Summer of Love, no riots, no nothing, no looting, and no killing. None. We simply gathered and prayed for his soul, his family, and this country, because that is exactly what we represent.

While we might be angry, this righteous anger will carry on Charlie's message and legacy. I want everybody to know something very simple: Charlie is not dead because of what he said. He is dead because people listened.

My time is limited, so I have a few questions for you, sir. Again, thank you very much for being here. I really appreciate your time and your service.

In your experience in the FBI, have you noticed a precipitous rise in political violence in other associated crimes that you have been investigating so far this year? If so, is this trend in motive left wing or right wing violence?

Mr. PATEL. I can only speak generally, sir. There is too much political violence. There has been a precipitate rise on too many fronts.

Mr. HUNT. How do we solve this?

Mr. PATEL. We solve this by giving the FBI more authorities to go into and work with the private sector. There are too many on-line platforms, there are too many social media platforms, there are too many gaming platforms, there are too many places for people from America and around the world to get together without their parents knowing anything about it, without their school-teachers knowing anything about it, an infection infesting the minds of our children, and infecting them with radical ideology.

That is the root cause of these problems. We must tackle it. It is not the 1950s America anymore. In 2024, the cyberspace needs to be tackled.

Mr. HUNT. Thank you.

Switching gears. When your predecessor sat right there in that seat a couple years ago, last year in a Committee hearing, I asked him a very detailed question about Matthew Thomas Crooks, the shooter responsible for the assassination attempt on President Trump's life.

I didn't get an answer from Chris Wray that day. I submitted written questions to the FBI and into the record of this Committee. I am going to resubmit those questions today because I think we are still awaiting answers to those questions.

Mr. Chair, I would like to submit them for the record, please.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. HUNT. I would like to ask you, sir, and the FBI under your leadership, would you please respond to these questions? Can you commit to doing that?

Mr. PATEL. As soon as the trial is over.

Mr. HUNT. Thank you very much.

I will end with this: Charlie Kirk is not dead because of what he said. Charlie Kirk is dead because people listened. He set up a tent that said, "Prove me wrong," and exercised his First Amendment right. That is all he did.

We will continue to do so in this country to preserve this constitutional republic. With that I yield back. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Before I begin, I want to caution my colleagues on the one-sided violence in this country.

We just heard that there were no riots on the Right. We are literally sitting in the building where there was a giant riot by supporters of the President, the Right.

We also heard that only Leftists, OK, have said that Trump is a Nazi. In 2016, the current Vice President of the United States said Trump is either a cynical asshole or he's America's Hitler.

This is the problem. I don't want to have to say this garbage, but you want me to sit here and get painted with one brush, the whole Left. No, no, there are extremes on the Left, and there are extremes on the Right. We collectively should tackle that.

To come here and just look at us and say we all support what is going on in the extreme, is why we can't solve anything in this building.

Director, let me say first thank you for being here. My condolences on the loss of your friend. I am happy to hear that you want to do more on the social media platform. OK, it is crazy what is going on the social media platform.

There are so many conspiracy theories on what is going on with Charlie Kirk. Israel assassinated him; right? There are conspiracy theories about your personal social life, all day. It is totally rampant. Big names on the Right, Candace Owens, right? Talking about how the—what has been released as far as the dialog between the perpetrator and his roommate is manufactured by the FBI, manufactured by the Administration. It is totally rampant.

Allowing foreign Governments to just perpetrate these platforms, all these bots all the time to weaponize Americans. You see what is going on here? This is a byproduct of all that. What is going on in the streets is a byproduct of all that. What is happening as we see people celebrate Luigi Mangione is a byproduct of all that.

If we want to do something, then we could talk about Section 230. We should talk about how we are going to make sure that we don't let foreign governments poison our children's minds.

I will work with you on that, Director.

Mr. PATEL. I will work with you on 230 any day.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. No problem. Now, that was the good part. I want to take your attention back a second. OK?

Breaking news: Kash Patel is nominated to be the FBI Director. Dan Bongino is nominated to be the No. 2 at the FBI. MAGA celebrates, rejoices, bells are ringing out. The team, Patel and Bongino have sought every podcast microphone to talk about the Epstein list. The names are finally going to get released.

It begins. They produce white binders. Phase one with the podcasters. This is not actually one of them, of course. I made this. Your name is on it; right? The names are going to come out. Pan Bondi says the list is on her desk.

Then, a memo comes out all a sudden and says there is no list. Oh no. No phase two. Phase two binders never happen. You said the conspiracy theories around Epstein just aren't true; they never have been.

Yesterday, in an answer to Senator Kennedy you said the FBI is not in possession of any credible evidence that Epstein trafficked girls to anyone but himself.

The recording of your testimony yesterday and in this Committee quoting to the evidence the FBI has, "the number of names on the list are zero." Zero.

Mr. PATEL. No. The index has the release. The number of people involved in that trafficking operation were charged in 2018.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Other than Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, your testimony in the Senate and here is that according to the evidence you have, the number of other names is zero?

Mr. PATEL. That were charged based on credible evidence.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Well, who are the other names? Give me the other names that weren't charged.

Mr. PATEL. We are not releasing the names of anyone, because the Department of Justice never does that of anyone that didn't have any credible information to attack them.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. OK, let me move forward. The President has—you have seen the picture of the woman's body with the writing and the President's signature, and the President says that is not his.

Mr. PATEL. Uh-huh.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. OK. The President says it is not his. The Republican colleagues say it is not his. The Administration says it is not his.

Will you be opening up an investigation into the Epstein estate for putting out a fake document with the President's signature linking him to the world's largest pedophile ring? Will you be opening that investigation into that?

Mr. PATEL. On what basis?

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. On what basis? They literally put out a fake document, according to the President, with a fake signature, and a forgery of the President of the United States' signature. That is the basis.

Mr. PATEL. Sure. I will do it.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. OK. I look forward to that investigation.

Am I over? Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate your doing this.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman's time has expired. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. KILEY. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Director Patel, as my State, California, is home to the worst public infrastructure failure in U.S. history, known as California high-speed rail, although the name is probably a misnomer. Earlier this year I joined your counterpart at the Department of Transportation, Sean Duffy, doing a compliance review of the Federal money the State has received. The outcome was that the State has not complied with the terms of its billions of dollars in funding because it hasn't actually built anything.

That Federal funding has now been cutoff. A lot of us in California still have questions as to where all the money went. We are 17 years into this project and absolutely nothing has been built, not a single bit of track has been laid. There are no stations. There are no passengers.

The plan initially was to have the whole thing, LA to San Francisco, done by 2020 at a cost of \$33 billion. Yet, here we are in 2025, nothing has been built. According to *The New York Times*, the project won't even be completed this century. The total cost is now estimated to be over 130 billion.

I just wanted to ask you, do you think this is something that bears scrutiny? Can you confirm whether there is any investigation going on at the FBI?

Mr. PATEL. The FBI certainly can't investigate incompetence. The FBI certainly can investigate and does investigate waste, fraud, and abuse. If we have any information that indicates that that happened in this situation or anything else, we will look at it.

Mr. KILEY. Thank you very much.

We have, also, been talking today about the issues that occurred at the border during the Biden Administration. You might not agree with your predecessor on everything, but you probably would agree with some of the statements he made in testimony before this and other committees raising alarms about the risk of terrorism from illegal border crossings.

Since becoming the Director, have you gotten some insight into how well-calibrated those warnings were? What is the status of that risk now?

Mr. PATEL. Since becoming the Director there has been a sharp decrease of border crossings for known or suspected terrorists on the Southern border. Unfortunately, there has been a sharp increase of known or suspected terrorists entering through our Northern border.

What I am trying to do is work with our Northern border States and our interagencies to tackle that problem. It is a naturally mas-

sive border that can't physically be sealed. We are going to have to get creative and put more resources into that.

Mr. KILEY. In a similar vein, there were over 500,000 unaccompanied children that crossed the Southern border during the Biden Administration. As we know, many were trafficked, either through forced labor or sex trafficking.

Do you have any insight into as to what the scale of that problem was and how things have changed over the last several months?

Mr. PATEL. Other than what you outlined in terms of how it was described, I don't have any additional details.

In terms of how many people are being trafficked into this country, especially unaccompanied missing children, that number has drastically reduced because the coyotes that smuggle these children for their criminal activity are the same ones that smuggle in narcotics, they are the same ones that traffic older age women. They are all interconnected.

Because of the sealing of the Southern border by this Administration, that has come to near halt.

Mr. KILEY. That is a very important point, that we have seen far fewer victims of human trafficking because we finally prioritized border security.

By the way, you have children who are getting rescued because of the immigration enforcement activities that, unfortunately, some politicians in my State are trying to stop, thereby stopping those kids from getting rescued.

We have seen, of course, a substantial reduction in crime here in Washington, DC, since the FBI and the National Guard got involved. I am asking you to State the obvious here, but what is the mechanism there?

Why have we seen a reduction in crime when D.C. has had such a huge crime problem for years and then almost overnight, we see such a big difference?

Mr. PATEL. Because of the dedication and resources from President Trump's Administration to utilize all Federal, State, and local assets in a heavily crime-ridden area.

If we did not have a crime-ridden area, then homicides, carjackings, and gun violence would not be dropping by 40–60 percent. When you allow the police, the MPD, to work with Federal authorities and allow the National Guard to set up your perimeter, this is what you can do in a few short weeks.

We at the FBI under Operation Summer Heat have set those Phase 01 operations in motion four months ago quietly at the direction of President Trump. We are scattered across cities across this country doing just that.

We are going to need more help to complete the job.

Mr. KILEY. Yes. In too many places in this country crime has just been treated as sort of a norm that this is the way things are going to happen to be. What has happened in D.C., shows that is not the case if we have the right policies and the right priorities.

Finally, this is, tragically, the second time in as many years that we have had an FBI Director here following either an assassination or an assassination attempt. Since there has been some time now since from the attempted assassination of President Trump at Butler, would you say that the public's understanding of what took

place on that day is fairly consistent with all the facts as you know them?

Do you believe there are still material facts that have not been made public or are not fully understood by the public.

Mr. PATEL. I think it is fairly consistent.

Mr. KILEY. Thank you. I yield.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady from Texas is recognized.

Ms. CROCKETT. Man oh man, there has been so much today. I truly don't know where to start. I am just going to make sure that we startup with a few facts.

A couple of facts that we need to make clear for everyone is that, first, Director Christopher Wray when he was appointed to be the head of the FBI was appointed by Donald Trump.

Now, I will agree that I definitely take issue with a number of decisions that Donald Trump made, especially when it comes to the people that he decides to appoint to very important positions, including this one, because I did have to make sure that I wasn't going crazy.

When I say that you are the least qualified FBI Director in the history of the FBI, that is real, because you are the only one that never even served with the FBI prior to joining. Yet, we are supposed to believe that you are—

Mr. PATEL. That is false.

Ms. CROCKETT. —the greatest thing since sliced bread. I didn't ask you a question. Now, what I want to go through—

Mr. PATEL. That is false.

Ms. CROCKETT. —is to talk about why you are a failure and why, honestly, we just need to tell you bye-bye.

I know that you got a little upset, and you put on your show for your boss, because it seems like you are trying to save your job when it came to talking to Senator Booker yesterday, but let's go through some of your failures.

Before you were even confirmed—and I think one of my colleagues from Georgia pointed out that you are already targeting career officials so that you could direct illegal firings. Mind you, these cases that you are so upset about, which are the ones tied to Trump, the cases came through his hand-picked FBI Director.

Frankly, when people sit around and say things like, oh, we are happy because now we feel safe, I don't know who feels safe in this country except for the White supremacists. Because I, specifically as a Black woman, definitely don't feel safe.

Frankly, my colleagues have been real nice to you today. I applaud them. I don't have the same demeanor, because I know that multiple colleagues on this side of the aisle have faced death threats. In fact, somebody tried to kill one of my colleagues. Frankly, I don't know if this FBI or under your leadership if those people would have been caught.

I don't have any confidence in you. If we start talking about the reasons that I lack confidence, we can start with you not just wanting to acknowledge some simple facts.

Simple facts like the vast majority of the threats are coming from Right-wing extremism. I know my colleagues have tried to stress this, but I decided that I would maybe do it in a different way.

I have a couple of UCs. First, “Ken Buck one of multiple Republicans receiving death threats for voting against Jim Jordan as House Speaker.”

Second, “Republican lawmaker says she received death threats after voting against Jim Jordan in Speaker’s race.”

Third, there was another one from another colleague who now is leaving Congress because they said that they were calling his wife anonymously and threatening her life to the extent that she ended up sleeping with a firearm.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Ms. CROCKETT. OK. So, here is the deal.

How are we supposed to have confidence when you are sitting up here telling the Senate yesterday that it will take 14 years before you can get the FBI fully staffed to do their jobs? You are also now redirecting resources so that they can go and play ICE agents on the street. You are getting rid of your most qualified people.

Even when it came down to somebody that you consider to be your friend, you were posted of having some fancy dinner to the extent that you posted not only what erroneously, you posted twice erroneously as it relates to catching somebody. Then, you want to go and say let me take a victory lap.

Because, honestly, if it wasn’t for parents deciding that they were going to turn in their child, it seems like y’all wouldn’t have got there. Even though he literally confessed online.

I am confused about what the FBI is doing except for trying to put on a show for “The Apprentice,” or whatever you want to call him.

The day after all this took place there was domestic terrorism that was taking place at HBCUs. They were targeted. Yet, I didn’t hear anything from the FBI about what was going on. Again, Black people kept saying how did we end up in this?

Because the numbers are so very clear that White supremacy is a problem and, honestly, I have not heard anything out of you today that makes me believe that you are going to do anything about the White supremacy problem, the one that is leading to children being killed, children being shot, as well as members of their community as they are working—as they are worshipping in their churches.

Chair JORDAN. The time of the gentlelady has expired. If the gentleman would like to respond to any of that? Well, I will respond.

Kash Patel, as I said when I introduced him, public defender, former prosecutor, top staff on the House Intelligence Committee, Deputy Director of National Intelligence with the National Security Council, Chief of Staff at the Department of Defense, and FBI Director.

That is a pretty good resume for the guy who is now running the top law enforcement agency in our country. We have seen all the stats that he has given to the Committee on how much better they are doing at getting the bad guys than the previous guy was doing.

With that, I recognize the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. FRY. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Director Patel, I think you are witnessing some auditions, clickbait auditions for the Academy Award from my Democratic colleagues and I see how they fare as they are on *MSNBC* later on today.

Do you care, before I launch into my line of questioning, to respond to Ms. Crockett from Texas on that very elaborate and theatrical display?

Mr. PATEL. Here is what I learned in my government service: I don't give a damn what they say about me as long as I am succeeding in the mission.

We are succeeding in the mission because the men and women in the FBI have never been empowered to do more work than to hit the streets harder than by President Trump's authorities and resources he has given us.

All I care about is that we are capturing more child predators than ever before, taking more drugs off the streets than ever before, that we are capturing murderers at a significantly historic rate, and we are delivering this country the lowest murder rate in recorded history. That is our facts that you cannot dispute. You can come at me all you want. I don't care.

Mr. FRY. Thank you. Thank you, Director, for that. We appreciate your service. We appreciate the results speak for themselves pretty plainly, and your commitment not only to results, but to transparency. So, we do appreciate that.

Director, who was John Durham?

Mr. PATEL. He was appoint—a former Federal prosecutor, United States Attorney and, ultimately, appointed Special Counsel in the first Trump Administration.

Mr. FRY. Correct. There was a document that he released in his findings called the Durham Report. What was the Durham Report, briefly, and what were the findings, very briefly?

Mr. PATEL. It was every Special Counsel that is appointed to produce a report to the Attorney General. Special Counsel Durham Report largely focused on Crossfire Hurricane and included extensive summary findings in classified and unclassified manner.

We released the classified version, finally declassifying it for the American public and this Committee.

Mr. FRY. Correct. You released that in July of this year?

Mr. PATEL. I think so.

Mr. FRY. Yes, sir. Isn't it true that in the classified Durham Annex, as it is referred to, that in 2016 the Obama Administration obtained intelligence information from a source contained in two separate memoranda, one in January 2016 and one in March? The two memoranda described confidential conversations between DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and two individuals from the Soros Open Society Foundation. Isn't that true?

Mr. PATEL. As written in the report. I will let it speak for itself.

Mr. FRY. In the Durham Annex in January 2016, the memorandum noted, in part, that President Barack Obama intended to scuttle the FBI's investigation into Hillary Clinton's private email server and mishandling of highly classified information during her time as Secretary of State. Isn't that found in the report?

Mr. PATEL. I believe so.

Mr. FRY. Isn't it also found in the report that in March 2016, the memorandum also included references to the same Obama effort to shut down the Clinton investigation, but additionally, outline a plan to falsely connect Trump to Russia. Isn't that in Durham Annex?

Mr. PATEL. I think it is in more than the Durham Report, but yes.

Mr. FRY. The memo also stated in part that,

The Democrat Party's opposition is focused on discrediting Trump. Among other things, the Clinton staff, with the support from Special Services, is preparing scandalous revelations of business connections between Trump and the Russian Mafia.

Isn't that also found in the now unclassified Durham Annex?

Mr. PATEL. I believe so, sir.

Mr. FRY. According to the Durham Annex, based on analysis and translation of the intelligence, FBI analysts believed that Special Services could either mean the FBI or CIA, or the Trump Dossier author Christopher Steele. Isn't that in the Durham Annex?

Mr. PATEL. I believe so, sir.

Mr. FRY. When the Obama Administration received intelligence in March 2018, Fusion GPS was preparing open source opposition research regarding purported ties between Trump and Russians. The research was paid for by the Clintons' campaign and the DNC. Isn't that open source and also in the Durham Annex?

Mr. PATEL. I believe both.

Mr. FRY. OK. Also, in the Durham Annex, which I found interesting, was the potential campaign plan was shared with high-ranking career officials at DOJ. Isn't that in the Durham Annex?

Mr. PATEL. I believe so, sir.

Mr. FRY. The Durham Annex describes that in July 2016, emails allegedly between Leonard Bernardo, Senior Vice President of George Soros' Open Society Foundation concluded or included data providing specificity on the Clinton plan in an attempt to smear Donald Trump by falsely linking him to Russia. Isn't that in the Durham Annex?

Mr. PATEL. I believe so.

Mr. FRY. Briefly, this additional evidence that you have unclassified and released to the American public, what does that purport to show or augment about the Durham Report that you can share with the American people?

Mr. PATEL. Quite simply that the FBI was weaponized.

Mr. FRY. Against a political campaign?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. FRY. Thank you for that. Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back.

Ms. CROCKETT. I have UCs.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from Texas is recognized for a unanimous consent.

Ms. CROCKETT. Yes.

First, "Russia's ghostwriter hacker group takes aim at German election." This is from *Politico*.

Second, Director of National Intelligence, 30 days until election 2024, who specifically states that "our assessments about activities and goals of Russia, Iran, and China are unchanged from earlier election security updates." That they remain.

I've got three more. The last three are that how Russia is using artificial intelligence to interfere in elections.

Third, "Moscow's attempts to interfere in U.S. and other elections are nothing new, though their tactics and strategy are constantly evolving."

Fourth, "Russian interference coming soon to an election near you." Quote, "Russia pursues a systemic strategy of undermining elections and influencing public opinion in the West."

Fifth, "EU, and NATO countries must recognize that Moscow often acts through agents within their own borders and builds resilience to such interference."

Chair JORDAN. What is the source?

Ms. CROCKETT. This one is *carnegieendowment.org*.

Chair JORDAN. OK. Without objection.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from North Carolina is recognized.

Ms. ROSS. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Director Patel, I am glad that I am going a little out of order here, because I am going to pursue some of the things that you were just talking to Mr. Fry about and remind you about your confirmation hearing.

At your confirmation hearing in January, you said under oath, and I quote, "There will be no politicization at the FBI. There will be no retributive actions taken by the FBI should I be confirmed."

In your written response to the Senate questionnaire you said, I quote,

Personnel decisions shall be based on performance and adherence to the law. And every FBI employee will be held to the absolute same standards, and no one will be terminated for case assignment.

I want to just go through a couple scenarios with you to get a sense of whether you think these are examples of politicization of the FBI or making decisions based on the performance and adherence to the law.

First, would hiring FBI agents, analysts, and supervisors from only one political party be politicization of the FBI or making personnel decisions based on performance and adherence to the law?

Mr. PATEL. We don't ask FBI people, applicants, where their political parties are.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Patel, do you ask FBI applicants who they voted for?

Mr. PATEL. The FBI does not.

Ms. ROSS. Are you aware that in the lawsuit that Mr. Driscoll filed against you and the FBI he was asked who he voted for?

Mr. PATEL. Since that lawsuit has been filed and that is ongoing litigation, I am not able to comment.

Ms. ROSS. Well, it also means that you just said that what happened in his situation didn't happen.

We will go on to the next question. Let me ask you an even easier one.

Does firing agents for working on the cases that they were assigned to and that the President didn't like, is that politicization of the FBI or making personnel decisions based on performance and adherence to the law.

Mr. PATEL. The FBI doesn't terminate anyone based on case assignments alone.

Ms. ROSS. Has the FBI ever been sued by somebody who felt that they were terminated based on case assignments?

Mr. PATEL. In the entire history of the FBI, I'm sure they have.

Ms. ROSS. No. Since your tenure.

Mr. PATEL. I am sure there is ongoing litigation.

Ms. ROSS. Yes. In fact, there is ongoing litigation. In fact, people have been asked who they voted for.

You are running an FBI for the President of the United States rather than the people of the United States. Because my questions were not hypothetical, they are the things you have done during your tenure.

According to a lawsuit filed last week by long-term FBI agents, you fired former Acting Director Brian Driscoll. He had served with the Bureau for nearly 20 years, earned a Medal of Honor—Medal of Valor for bravery during the dangerous ISIS raid, and had a wealth of crisis response experience, and led the FBI's Critical Incident Response Team.

When the Trump Administration interviewed Mr. Driscoll for that role, they interrogated him about his political leanings and who he voted for in the last five elections, questions Mr. Driscoll refused to answer because those types of questions impermissibly politicized the FBI.

You also fired Steve Jensen, who served the FBI for nearly two decades and ran critical terrorism, counterintelligence, and organized crime operations who you once described as embodying what the American public demands of the FBI. He was fired because he took part in investigating crimes committed on January 6th. Trump's MAGA base lambasted you online for keeping him at the FBI. He is no longer at the FBI.

You also fired a decorated combat veteran with decades of experience in the Bureau, Special Agent Walter Giardina, because he worked on the investigation into the Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election, and helped investigate Trump's ally Peter Navarro.

Director Patel, it is very clear that you have flunked your own test. You put saving your job—which I actually believe you were being honest about during your confirmation hearings—over doing what is right for the FBI and the American people. That is not adherence to the law.

Thank you. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The time of the gentlelady has expired. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. KNOTT. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Director Patel, it is great to have this opportunity. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your service.

I have got to say one of the most disheartening components of the previous administration, when I was working with local law enforcement all over the State of North Carolina, all over the country, people rightfully did not really care about the inner-workings of Washington, DC.

The FBI had previously been the paramount, the sterling, the top of the top law enforcement agency. They wanted their FBI to fight crime. Whatever small town city, whatever it may be, FBI was expected to deliver for the American people.

Then reports started to come out in addition to the likes of McCabe, Comey, Clapper, Strzok, and Page, the FBI was targeting Christian nonprofits. They were targeting parents for protesting the radical gender theory at their schools. They targeted Catholics, churches, and prolife organizations.

The FBI was really bruised in just modern day America. Your focus on getting the FBI back to the streets, fighting criminals, locking up bad guys, whether violent criminals, whether they are sex predators, whatever they may be, that is restoring the reputation of the FBI. I thank you for that.

In regard to the perceptions, I want to be very clear here. You mentioned the statistics about removing dangerous illegals, removing thousands of kilograms of drugs, violent criminal's guns, the border is secure. These accomplishments are noteworthy, and they are needed. At the same token, I want your take. The fight is not over, isn't that correct? We look at what happened in the previous administration, the number of illegal alien criminals that made their way into this country of every type. They are embedded. They are here. It is going to take a sustained effort to win this battle.

Mr. PATEL. That's the critical component, sustained effort. That's the critical component when you look at what happened in Washington, DC. We are not here for four seconds in terms of safeguarding Washington, DC. It is a sustained initiative. We are taking it to Memphis and wherever we decide else.

We are going to continue the mission until it is done.

Mr. KNOTT. In regard to offloading some of the agents from Washington, DC, to the States, to the people, can you just explain how tactically that is a force multiplier in the law enforcement community around the country?

Mr. PATEL. It is pretty simple. You don't even have to be in law enforcement to know that. If you put cops with other cops, they are going to do cop work.

Mr. KNOTT. Right.

Mr. PATEL. What was needed in the communities out there was more cops. What was not needed in the bloated bureaucracy of Washington, DC, was a third of the FBI's workforce because a third of the crime does not happen in the Washington, DC, and CR area. The results speak for themselves.

Our State and local partners—I have always said this—are our biggest ally—our greatest ally and partner, and we cannot do the work without them. We have got to send our guys to them.

Mr. KNOTT. Yes. That is right. In regards to the last four years to open border policies, whether it is terrorism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, violent crime, massive amounts of organized retail theft, and other types of criminal behavior, can you describe just so anyone who is listening here can talk about how serious the levels of criminality have become in the United States?

Mr. PATEL. Well, unfortunately, to have these record-breaking numbers of arrests and seizures, you tragically had to have a record-breaking explosion in violent crime. It doesn't happen overnight. It came in from all corners of the earth and from all platforms, including social media. That is the root cause of all these evils.

To clean it up, it is not going to happen overnight. The men and women of the FBI, what they did in these seven months, everybody should be talking about it. Every single district in this dais is safer now today than it has ever been because of that work.

Mr. KNOTT. In regards to the ongoing political climate, Director Patel, how do sanctuary policies that are still being implemented and defended in certain States, cities, and counties, how do they help or hurt your efforts to make America safer?

Mr. PATEL. Well, if you are harboring criminals, you are harboring our ability to keep our communities safe. It is that simple. If you have a fugitive warrant for a violent felony offense, and we are not able to procure you because of policies or rules that don't allow us to go get them, and time and time again we have heard all too many illegal immigrants who should not have been here murdering women, murdering children, giving drugs to our youth, and raping our children and that is unacceptable.

Mr. KNOTT. Straightly put, can you separate immigration enforcement from fighting crime?

Mr. PATEL. They are intertwined.

Mr. KNOTT. Thank you. In regard to policies like cashless bail, how does that help or hurt your efforts?

Mr. PATEL. Criminals know that there are certain jurisdictions where if they shoot someone, they will be out the door within the next hour to do it again. That is an ethos, and a system, that has been built out over years that we are combating.

Mr. KNOTT. How is defunding the police around the country, how does that help or hurt?

Mr. PATEL. As long as I am in this seat, we are not defunding any cops.

Mr. KNOTT. Good. Thank you, Director. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. Mr. Garcia is recognized.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Chair Jordan. Welcome, again, Director Patel.

As Members of the Judiciary Committee we have a responsibility to conduct oversight of the FBI and assess whether or not you are doing a good job in a responsible and impartial manner or whether you are just the henchman for Donald Trump, who is weaponizing the Bureau at the expense of public safety.

As Congressman Correa highlighted, one of the many concerning issues during your tenure is the Bureau's expanded role in low level noncriminal immigration enforcement.

I have a report here from the conservative Cato Institute. They have obtained ICE documents showing that over 2,500 FBI personnel are now working on immigration enforcement.

A yes or no question. Did you sign off on this?

Mr. PATEL. The 2,500 FBI employees are not currently working on immigration enforcement.

Mr. GARCIA. Did you sign off on this?

Mr. PATEL. The Cato Report?

Mr. GARCIA. The 2,500 FBI personnel that have been reported to now being working on immigration enforcement.

Mr. PATEL. I couldn't have signed off on it because it is not happening.

Mr. GARCIA. You can call it whatever you want, but the reality is that over 2,000 personnel, individuals, are now working at ICE instead of their jobs.

I want to followup on something that Senator Durbin asked you about yesterday. This article from *MSNBC* reports that nearly every agent on Baltimore's Domestic Terrorism Unit, who was, by the way, investigating the 764 Network of child predators, was diverted to work on immigration enforcement full time. That forced them to, and I quote him, "walk away from investigations of a network of violent predators that targets and exploits children online."

Yes or no, were you aware that this happened and did you sign off on it?

Mr. PATEL. The premise is false. The 764 Network in Baltimore was taken down. The FBI agents do double and triple duty all the time.

Mr. GARCIA. I am reclaiming my time. You told Senator Durbin yesterday you didn't know about it. Your testimony is inconsistent today.

Mr. PATEL. No, I found out.

Mr. GARCIA. My final question. Let me ask you again a yes or no question. Are you aware that agents have been told by supervisors not to document their shifting of resources toward immigration related work?

Mr. PATEL. That is a literal—another falsehood. It is impossible for me to move a human being without documenting that work.

Mr. GARCIA. As FBI Director, you must be transparent with Congress. You need to provide us information about how many agents have been diverted to noncriminal immigration enforcement, why the Baltimore Unit was dismantled, and whether there is a cover-up of what is happening under your leadership because this goes to the heart of whether or not you are carrying out the stated mission of the FBI, keeping our communities safe.

Diverting FBI agents from investigating violent child predators doesn't make us safer. Using FBI resources to target parents, children, and other immigrants for low level, noncriminal enforcement doesn't make us safer. Enabling violent, lawless conduct by Federal enforcement doesn't make us safer as we saw last week when an ICE officer killed one of my constituents.

I know that the FBI has been involved in that investigation. Yesterday, ICE did a raid in the suburb of Elgin where two U.S. citizens were arrested. Who accompanied them in the filming of that show? Secretary Noem. Shameful conduct.

Weaponizing the FBI to serve Donald Trump's political agenda instead of the American people does not make us safer. Before I yield back.

Mr. Chair, I request unanimous consent to submit the following documents for the record.

First, a report from the *Cato Institute*, which I referenced earlier, where "ICE has diverted over 2,500 officers from their jobs."

Second, an article from *MSNBC* titled, "Trump's Deportations Divert FBI Agents Off Child Predator Cases."

Third, an article from *CNN* entitled, "White House Pressure for Increased Immigration Arrests Strains Law Enforcement Agencies."

Thank you. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection, the gentleman yields back. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you. Thank you by the way for coming over here. Sorry you have to put up with all this. I know when you took over, the FBI's reputation in a lot of circles perhaps had never been lower.

Part of that is brazen involvement in political activity, the Foreign Influence Task Force getting involved and trying to suppress news stories in the *New York Post*. Crossfire Hurricane coming up with bogus stories to try to flip the 2016 election. The FBI downplaying stories of Hilary Clinton's emails in the 2016 election. That is their overt involvement in political activity.

A strong antireligious bias. We talked about the stories and anti-Catholic bias in there. I know I have talked to people about horrific overreaction at the big Hindu Temple in New Jersey in which—just so people understand, they had a rectory in the temple area. The religious leaders taken out at gunpoint. Big problems. Finally, the FBI trying to turn America's viewpoint on certain political issues.

When I talk about that, I am talking about what was done in Mexico with regard to shipping weapons, *Fast and Furious*, shipping weapons into Mexico in an effort to try to turn Americans against the First Amendment.

In any event, what scares me is, and all these horrible things that were done in the past, there were individual FBI agents who participated in them, which apparently their supervisors told them this is OK or even admirable.

What am I going to ask you, are you able to do anything to make sure that in the future these corrupted FBI agents understand the importance of religion in our life, and they are not be viewed with suspicion. They understand parental rights and the idea that traditionally in America parents have the ability to object when their young 5–6-year-old children or a year older, very young children are getting what most people consider highly inappropriate sexual contact.

What are we doing there to try to make sure we don't have problems with these FBI agents again? Or make sure that in future administrations they would object if they were asked to behave in such an immoral fashion?

Mr. PATEL. Two things, if you are corrupt, you don't work at the FBI. It is that simple. We don't tolerate any form of corruption or any deviation from our high standards, whether you are an agent, an intel analyst, or whatnot.

Just to show the American public, the resurrection that the FBI has had in these seven months, you don't have to believe me. Our applicant pool has doubled month over month every year from the highest point it has ever been. More people want to work at this FBI than ever before in U.S. history.

Mr. GROTHMAN. I am sure that it is because of you. You anticipated my next question. I talked to retired FBI agents in my area who sometimes retired in part because they hated the woke, anticonservative culture at the FBI. They are concerned, the retiring agents, about new agents, not on your watch, but before this,

being corrupted in the universities before they were hired. They were very worried about what would happen with the new agents.

You are answering my question. Do you feel you will be able to a certain extent solve the problem of inappropriately woke agents filling up with the agency in the past because now you are going to have a larger pool to draw from?

Mr. PATEL. Everybody that comes to work at the FBI is allowed to have their own belief system. They are not allowed to bring that belief system into the workplace. Anyone that does, won't work at the FBI.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Very good. Now, recently, I will show you another potential scandal, I guess, a politically motivated thing, Arctic Frost. Do you want to comment on that? It appears one more time perhaps the FBI was getting involved in what would normally be considered political events.

Mr. PATEL. We are not getting involved in political events, except this one.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Final thing, with regard to prejudice against Catholics, what happened in the big Hindu Temple there in New Jersey, do you think—have you ever—has anybody ever apologized to the Catholic Church or apologized to that temple?

Mr. PATEL. I don't know, sir.

Mr. GROTHMAN. OK. Is that something you think perhaps would be a good idea to do in the future?

Mr. PATEL. I think leadership should address it.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman's time has expired. The gentleman yields back the—oh, so we got the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Director Patel, for your endurance and your perseverance throughout the day's hearing and for all you have shared.

First, let me start by saying that I was very grateful and glad to see that the FBI has joined the investigation of the tragic and brutal murder of Iryna Zarutka in Charlotte, which is just right by my District.

This woman, as you know, fled the war in Ukraine only to be killed in cold blood by a man who had no business being on the streets whatsoever. This man who had been seen stabbing Iryna to death on video had been arrested 14 previous times, served prison time, and was diagnosed with a severe mental illness. In response to the previous offense, the magistrate over his case released him to roam the streets with a zero-dollar bond and a simple written promise to appear in court.

Mr. Patel, let me just ask you, should judges apply the most lenient bail standards to people with extensive criminal history?

Mr. PATEL. Do they apply the most lenient? I'm sorry.

Mr. HARRIS. Should they apply the most lenient bail standards to people with extensive criminal history?

Mr. PATEL. That has not been my experience. That should not happen.

Mr. HARRIS. Is America a place where young women should fear to ride public transit?

Mr. PATEL. No.

Mr. HARRIS. Was Iryna Zarutka's death, would you say, possibly the result of Democrat's procrime policies?

Mr. PATEL. That investigation and matter is in open trial, so I don't want to stylize the evidence.

Mr. HARRIS. I understand. Well, Mr. Patel, let me just say, taking over the FBI after the Biden Administration's blatant weaponization of the Agency is no feat as we have recognized throughout this hearing today.

For four years, we have witnessed the Biden Administration targeting regular Americans rather than violent criminals.

For example, the Biden Administration's FBI spent its time and resources going after churches and Christians. We know that the FBI used an undercover agent to collect information about a parishioner. We know that the FBI investigated and surveilled a Catholic priest. All this was in response to First Amendment protected activity.

Mr. Patel, I want to ask you. Should the FBI use its resources to spy on Catholics?

Mr. PATEL. Never.

Mr. HARRIS. What does it say about the culture of the Biden FBI that law enforcement resources were used to go after Catholics and some FBI employees were comfortable with taking such actions?

Mr. PATEL. Well, pursuant to my transparency initiative in working with Congress on oversight, those documents, that is it. Those documents are available for the American public to see and read and hold people accountable. That is what I am committed to.

Mr. HARRIS. Have you been able to hold accountable those at the FBI who went after law-abiding Catholic church members?

Mr. PATEL. If they did so improperly, yes.

Mr. HARRIS. Well, I have been a pastor for 36 years. I have constantly stood up for life and stood up for family amidst a culture that is increasingly hostile to both of those things. If the Biden Administration targeted Catholics, could I have been targeted by the Wray FBI as well?

Mr. PATEL. Well, I don't know. I am not going to target you.

Mr. HARRIS. Well, I know that President Trump respects religious liberty and that his administration is seeking to right the wrongs of the Biden Administration, securing our freedoms and protecting faith leaders and communities requires a multipronged approach.

What would you say in just the last few moments, what does the FBI under your leadership going to do to make sure that our religious liberty and religious leaders can rest comfortable this evening?

Mr. PATEL. Zealously protecting our First Amendment rights. Zealously going after those that abuse that right that leads to criminal conduct. You will be investigated. You will be looked at and referred to prosecution every single time the evidence warrants.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, sir. One final area, I do want to draw attention, Mr. Patel, to Waxhaw, North Carolina, a town in my district that just fell victim to a cyberattack on September 12th, that interrupted emergency services.

Waxhaw is working with State partners, and the FBI has been notified on this attack. I certainly pray they are able to help out with the ongoing investigation.

Could you just speak to what the FBI is doing to bolster our community's cybersecurity to defend against any future cyberattacks?

Mr. PATEL. Well, in North Carolina, you are slated to get a plus up of 22 FBI employees, and they are already on the way. That encompasses cyber counter intel, counterterrorism field agents, and intel operatives. What we are doing on a macro level on the counter intel and cyber front is going after the people that fund these operations on these online platforms and breaking their banks because once we do that successfully across the board, they won't have the ability to attack us.

Mr. HARRIS. Well, thank you, Director Patel. Let me just add my comments to those of my colleagues that are very grateful for your leadership, grateful for your courage, your consistency, and for being willing to stand in the gap for us.

With that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. The gentleman from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. ONDER. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Director Patel, thank you for being here with us today.

Over the past few years, we have seen a disturbing increase of attacks on Christians and conservatives. Since the leak of the *Dobbs'* decision, there have been 354 attacks on Catholic churches. In the first year following the leak, there were more than 100 attacks against prolife pregnancy care centers. The shadowy pro-abortion group Jane's Revenge claimed responsibility for two dozen of these attacks.

Meanwhile, the Biden FBI focused resources on attacking Catholics and peaceful prolife protestors like Mark Hopkin and Paul Vaughn. Many of these attacks on Christians and conservatives were coordinated or praised by dark Leftist cells who lurk on the online chat rooms of Reddit, Discord, and Game Sites. This is a war room for Antifa and violent transgender activists.

There have been essentially no incidents of violence by Catholics, proliferators, or parents at school board meetings. There have, unfortunately, been multiple shootings motivated by Leftist and transgender ideology including recent attacks in Nashville, Colorado Springs, Denver, and Aberdeen.

Worse, the targeted violence reached a boiling point this past month, a few weeks ago when an anti-Christian transgender terrorist murdered two children and injured 17 in a shooting at a Catholic mass.

The last week, while we were sitting in this Committee room almost to the hour, Charlie Kirk was assassinated by a 22-year-old who appears to have been motivated by Leftist and transgender ideology.

As you confirmed yesterday to my Senate colleagues, he may not have acted alone. You testified that in his online chat room of more than 20 transideologues that you were aware, I believe you said many more, many were aware of and possibly complicit in the assassination.

Director Patel in light of the increased violence emanating from the far Left, is your FBI investigating this violent trend of antireligious, Antifa, and transgender driven violence?

Mr. PATEL. All of it across the board is being zealously investigated no matter what your motivation or bias is behind it.

Mr. ONDER. Very good. We have also noticed a dramatic surge in the number of clinics offering so-called gender affirming care. Whistleblowers in a recent NIH study confirmed that these clinics pray on some of the most mentally ill children and young adults in our society. These clinics are quick to prescribe life-altering puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgery.

Often these patients get worse rather than better. Unfortunately, some have become violent, and some have even committed mass shootings. The partner of one of them assassinated Charlie Kirk.

Director Patel, is the FBI looking into the role that these gender clinics may have in the recent attacks in making these mentally ill individuals violent?

Mr. PATEL. We are looking at the entire spiderweb for any of these attacks, be it Denver or Charlie or where have you. That's why our investigations are ongoing. We don't have a final product yet.

Mr. ONDER. One of my Democratic colleagues as an aside mentioned "the Federal takeover of our cities." I don't know whether my Democrat colleagues for some reason liked Washington, DC, better when it was more dangerous and more violent, when there were more robberies, car jackings, murders, and rapes. What has the crime picture in Washington, DC, looked like since the so-called Federal takeover?

Mr. PATEL. There are 2,100 arrests, 37 percent decrease in violent crime same time last year, 60 percent decrease in gun crime, 74 percent decrease in carjackings, and 53 percent reduction in homicides in Washington, DC, in the last month alone.

Mr. ONDER. Very good. Thank you so much for your testimony. I know it has been a long day. I will give you a little break and yield back the rest of my time.

Chair JORDAN. Does the gentleman yield?

Mr. ONDER. Yes.

Chair JORDAN. Director Patel, what is a 302?

Mr. PATEL. It is a report, the number of the report, whenever an FBI agent goes out and interviews someone.

Chair JORDAN. Are you familiar with the 302 where the FBI agent interviewed the whistleblower who has come forward and talked about the former Chair of the Intel Committee here in the House pushing staff members to leak classified information. Well, I will just read from it: "Staffers were instructed to"—this is from the 302 interview of this person. "Staffers were instructed to use any sources that had developed within the United States intelligence community to gather information which would then be made public through the media in order to compel public opinion."

Are you familiar with that?

Mr. PATEL. I am.

Chair JORDAN. Yes, that is how they played the game, wasn't it? Leaking information, classified or otherwise, true or otherwise, to

create this public opinion to compel action to undermine the President. Is that accurate?

Mr. PATEL. I believe so.

Chair JORDAN. Just one other point I would make from this. This witness also said in the 302 that the agent recorded that the witness provided the interviewing agents with copies of both his handwritten notes and an email. He gave them the stuff he wrote and at the actual time this was taking place. That is all in the 302, right?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, sir.

Chair JORDAN. All right.

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Chair? Mr. Chair?

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from—

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Chair, I would like to submit for the record an article from *The Hill*, “Massive Crime Drop in DC, City Sees Zero Murder Week,” dated August 25, 2025. Also, I would also like to submit for the record an article from *The New York Times* dated April 18, 2025, “Man Who Set Fire to Shapiro’s Mansion Cited Treatment of Palestinians, Police Say.”

Chair JORDAN. Yes, thank you. Without objection. The gentlelady from Texas and then Pennsylvania.

Ms. CROCKETT. My first UC is the FBI AA letter to Congress on summary terminations where it states,

Denying fundamental due process and summarily dismissing special agents will only make it harder to protect our Nation. These actions distract agents from their work, foster fear that their assignments could cost them their careers either now or under the next administration and increase the risk of criminal and national security threats by undermining unity and morale within the bureau.

The next one is an *CNN* article, “FBI Agents are Again Pulled from Their Day Jobs to Address a Trump Priority.” It states,

Morale is the worst I have seen said one law enforcement source. The Bureau is becoming unrecognizable. Lots of people are weighing really difficult decisions right now.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. The gentlelady from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Ms. SCANLON. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I request unanimous consent to introduce into the record a September 16, 2025, article in *The New Republic* entitled, “DOJ Quietly Deletes Study on Politics of Domestic Terrorism.” The Justice Department has taken down a study that proves Republicans’ entire narrative wrong about Left-wing violence.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Washington is recognized.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, Director, for being here. I think without question we can say that Donald Trump has been tougher on crime and tougher on international terrorism than any president in American history. I imagine that brings you a lot of satisfaction and pride as the Director of America’s foremost law enforcement agency.

Recently, President Trump conducted very strategic and important strikes on Iran’s nuclear apparatus in that country. We also know that there are concerns of significant Iranian sleeper terror

cells here in the U.S., perhaps exacerbated by the open border during the Biden Administration.

What can you tell Congress and the American people about what the FBI is doing to safeguard us from a potential terrorist attack by Iranian cells?

Mr. PATEL. Our Counterterrorism Division, which is fully stocked up, watches for reflections in the intelligence streams that our intelligence community collects and produces and works hand in glove with our partners at the CIA and elsewhere to make sure that any threat, even if it's hearsay, double hearsay, triple hearsay, or totally incredible is not only fully run down, but we also take our duties to notifying in defensive briefings to those who are mentioned in those intelligence reports to make sure that we do both our notification obligation and our investigatory obligation.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Thank you. The FBI is also the foremost counterintelligence apparatus here in the U.S. We know the U.S. faces a more complex array of global threats at any time than perhaps World War II or even superseding that time.

As America continues to be under attack from various intelligence agencies globally, what can you tell us about the counterintelligence operations of the FBI's core function?

Mr. PATEL. This is why the CI mission is so important to the FBI because, like you said, no one else can do it. No one else has the authority to do it. Even if they did, they don't have the capabilities to do it.

The CI mission has to be headquartered in Washington but have far-reaching capabilities because we have to face against our adversaries in DPRK, in Russia, China, Iran, and elsewhere. To do that, we have to have dedicated intelligence professionals on those target sets.

Since I have become the Director, I have demanded not only a dismantling and disruption of networks, but a public display of how we are doing it so the world knows that our adversary is (A) attacking us, and (B) we are stopping them.

That is why you have seen these dramatic increases in counterintelligence arrests in the PRC by 33 percent, in Russia 83 percent, in Iran 60 percent. We are showing the world that they are trying to engage in espionage activities against us, and we are holding them accountable publicly.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. There has been increasing concern about the Maduro regime of Venezuela, both their potential support of terrorist activity, criminal drug networks, and potential espionage entities here within the U.S. What can you tell us about your activities regarding the Maduro regime of Venezuela?

Mr. PATEL. Generally speaking, one of the largest transshipment points and shipment points for narcotics out of South America, Colombia, obviously, and also Venezuela, is being utilized heavily by the narco traffickers to send up cocaine, meth, fentanyl, and all the other illegal narcotics through the island chain in the Caribbean Ocean and ultimately for America.

There has to be more work done in the region to stop those navigable waterways from being traversed with drugs bound for America.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Finally, Mr. Director, what is the one thing that Congress could most do in terms of passing the law to best support the FBI in making America safer and more secure?

Mr. PATEL. Give us more authorities to get online, to get onto social media companies, gaming platforms, have legal access, and also have private partnerships with the FBI of those companies and allow them to report into us on a daily basis. There is no human being or AI system on earth that can go out there and cover down on the threat in those theaters. We need the assistance and we need more authorities. We need the private sector to double down.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Well, thank you very much for all you are doing, all the men and women of the FBI are doing, to keep us safe. I yield back.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back. I have a UC request from the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have an article titled, "FBI Flooded with Record Number of New Agent Applications." Kash Patel's first month, the FBI saw 5,577 new agent applications for March and more than 10,000 since January.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. The gentleman from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Thank you, Mr. Chair and the Director, thank you for being here.

I have listened carefully to all the discussion in this hearing. I have reached two top-line conclusions. First, I am glad I don't have your job. Second, I am glad you do. Thank you for being willing to step up and serve in this role.

I would like to plow a little bit of ground that we have not spent a lot of time on so far and explore—you have mentioned, and I am well aware of your strong commitment to partnering with State and local law enforcement authorities.

Obviously, one of the missions is in the counterdrug space. Another is in the forensic laboratory space where both you and a lot of local and State agencies cooperate in terms of evidence analysis.

From the State side, programs such as the HIDTA programs, very, very important in counterdrug, such as the Coverdell grants, very, very important in maintaining State laboratory capacities.

Would I be correct in concluding that if we are able to maintain robust funding for those types of programs, including both Coverdell and HIDTA that would contribute to the safety of the United States and to your mission?

Mr. PATEL. Absolutely.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Director, you have talked a little bit about some of the counterdrug work that you have been doing. One thing we haven't talked about yet. The President, in one of his first actions on taking office back in January, designated a number of the cartels as foreign terrorist organizations. That is not just a paper transaction. I believe the list has been expanded since those first actions.

In terms of America's military engagement with the cartels abroad in terms of our intelligence engagement with them abroad, that designation has had real meaning and has affected some of

the thinking and approaches of our military and our intelligence community.

Can you talk a bit about how that designation might be affecting or should be affecting the FBI's approach to dealing with the domestic activities of the cartels?

Mr. PATEL. The simple way to analogize it is after 9/11 and the manhunt for the foreign terrorist organizations overseas in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, the FBI received certain authorities to go out there and dedicate a mission to go after them both lawfully and investigatively and collect evidence and provide it to our agents or agency partners.

Once the foreign terrorist organization designation was labeled over to the Mexican drug cartels, we can now do that here and in Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and anywhere else they are. So that is the best analogy I have.

What we are able to do is take our counterterrorism platform, traditionally used for global terrorist manhunting, and bring it into this hemisphere against a very real threat, which is the drug traffickers. They are foreign terrorist organizations. We just have so many more resources and authorities now directed at them.

Mr. SCHMIDT. For example, Director, in the regions, from the vantage point of local law enforcement, there are structures that have historically handled those partnerships separately. HIDTA, for example, is an example on the drug trafficking side. The JTTFs are an example on the terrorism side.

How is the thinking evolving in terms of whether it is on a regional basis either merging or not merging those structures now that the targets in many ways are merged?

Mr. PATEL. The JTTFs are kind of our forward operating base across every single State in this country to take on that mission. Any time you are labeled a foreign terrorist organization, you come right under the authority of the JTTF, the task force officers, and the State and local level police work that gets done in those JTTFs.

The Homeland Security Task Force layer on top of that, I think 25–30 across the country, specifically working with DHS and Secretary Noem to go after the drug trafficking foreign terrorist organizations because they have unique capabilities and authorities dedicated to that mission. That is the beauty of HSCFs.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Let me ask you an adjacent question, Director. I noticed in your written testimony—I don't think we have talked about it yet—you brought to our attention an expiring authority. It is in 6 U.S.C. 124n with respect to counter-UAS drones. You point out that this authority expires in statute at the end of this month.

Mr. PATEL. Yes.

Mr. SCHMIDT. You impressed on it is your interest in seeing it extended in some manner. Can you talk a little bit about the FBI's role in counter-UAS work over American air space?

I represent a district that is going to host some of the FIFA World Cup activities coming up. We are obviously very interested in security. There are limits on what our State and local authorities have the capacity to do or what our military has the capacity to do once the threat is domestic.

Mr. PATEL. It is critically important. Both the FBI and DHS have those capabilities. I will speak to the FBI, of course, only. You raise the World Cup. That is exactly what we need it for.

The Club World Cup, which just happened, was 32 games in at least a dozen different cities across the country, the largest sporting events consecutively on American history. We used our counter-drone capabilities to not only inspect and secure stadium locations, but where fans were hovering in what we call base camps.

Thankfully because of the success of the FBI and DHS, we had no significant security incidences.

Flipping to the World Cup, which is going to be three times as large, and obviously the largest we have ever had, and running into the LA Olympics in 2028, our counter-UAS capabilities are going to be the ones that enable us to have a literal bird's-eye view of the threat dynamic around so many of these cities, which are going to see literally tens and hundreds of thousands of people flock to them. We have to have it.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Making sure the bad guys don't have the same.

Mr. PATEL. Exactly.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Very good. I yield back and thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back.

Director, you have been amazing. You have been here four hours and 41 minutes without a break. We appreciate that. I think we have one more Member with a UC request and then we will let you go. We appreciate that.

The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. GILL. Thank you again for taking the time, Director Patel, and for Chair Jordan for holding this hearing. Thank you for depoliticizing the FBI and getting it back to its original mission as well.

Director Patel, do you agree that we have a problem in the United States with politically motivated violence?

Mr. PATEL. Absolutely.

Mr. GILL. I very much agree. We can all agree that political violence is wrong. It is evil. Regardless of which side it comes from and whether we can all adamantly and vehemently reject it or we certainly should. One of the things that we have noticed recently is that affinity and tolerance for political violence is not equally distributed on both sides of the aisle. In fact, right now social media is filled with Leftists who are cheering on the murder of an iconic conservative political figure, Charlie Kirk.

It is not just random people on Twitter doing this now. There is a YouGov poll released just a few days ago which stated that 25 percent of those who identify as very liberal believe that political violence can sometimes be justified. That is far too many, is it not?

Mr. PATEL. That is far too many.

Mr. GILL. One is far too many. That is right. Only three percent of very conservative said the same thing. We can agree that three percent is far too many. There is an astounding difference between 25 percent on the Left accepting and tolerating political violence and three percent on the Right.

I would hope that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would also recognize that there is a systemic problem on their side of the aisle with tolerance for violence against people with whom

they politically disagree. That there is a cultural rot on their side of the aisle that needs to be addressed desperately.

Would you agree with that?

Mr. PATEL. Yes.

Mr. GILL. One of the most astounding aspects of this is that it is not just people. This comes from the very top, from their political leaders.

Just a few days ago, a Member of Congress, of this body, Ilhan Omar, shared a video on her social media account about Charlie Kirk's murder. I will quote what it said. It said, "Charlie Kirk was Dr. Frankenstein, and his monster shot him through the neck." In other words, Charlie had it coming to him. The words that he said naturally led to his assassination.

That is a reprehensible thing for a Member of Congress to say, to suggest, and to promote in any capacity. There are people across this country who are losing their jobs for far less than this. That, by the way, is a just response to acceptance and tolerance of political violence.

It is amazing to me that the political Left today, who are the originators and the cheerleaders of cancel culture now have the backbone to attack conservatives for defending their assassinated friend.

There is a key difference here. Democrats want to silence conservatives for speaking obvious self-evidence ontological truths like that men aren't women and men can't get pregnant. That seems pretty basic. That seems like a basic truth that we should all be able to agree on.

Republicans by contrast are recognizing that a constitutional republic depends on the free and open exchange of ideas that we can debate without violence. That assassinating a political rival is evil. It is wrong. It should not be glorified, promoted, or justified in any way, including in the way that Congressman Ilhan Omar did.

Mr. Patel, thank you again, for being here. I would like to, with the remainder of my time, just get your opinion. Does the FBI recognize the rising threat of political violence in America and what can you guys do to address it?

Mr. PATEL. Yes, we do. What we can do to address it, Congressman, is we need to get online partnerships with these companies in the public space, on these gaming sites, and on these social media sites.

As I was saying earlier, there is no way to triage the amount of information generated on these sites by the FBI alone, and we need the public-private partnership. There is another law that is expiring at the end of this month, which I believe we need renewed that allows private sector companies to report into the FBI without liability for criminal investigatory purposes. That is the kind of stuff we need to keep going.

Mr. GILL. Thank you, Director Patel. We really appreciate it.

Mr. PATEL. Thank you.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman yields back.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair?

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. I have some UCs.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman will State his request.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you. The first one is a piece entitled, "Review of Domestic Terrorism After Kirk Murder Shows Biden Politicized the Issue, the Intel and Fudged the Data."

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. BIGGS. I make a motion to table.

Chair JORDAN. We have got to recognize the Ranking Member for his motion.

Mr. RANKIN. It is just a UC request.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman is recognized for a UC request.

Mr. RANKIN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the *ADL* report issued February 21, 2025, titled, "Murder and Extremism in the United States in 2024," concluding that for the third year in a row every extremist-related murder in the United States in 2024 was committed by Right-wing extremists, eight of the 13 involving White supremacists and five having connections to far-Right antigovernment extremists.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. The gentlelady from Pennsylvania is recognized for unanimous consent.

Ms. SCANLON. Yes. Thank you. I have a couple articles here.

First, a *New York Post* article, July 17, 2025, "Democrat Senator Ron Wyden Claims Big Epstein File Full of Actionable Information Locked in Treasury Department Drawer."

Second, is *The Guardian*, May 18, 2023. "Deutsche Bank agrees to pay \$75 million to settle Jeffrey Epstein lawsuit."

Third, *Fox Business*, September 10, 2025. "JPMorgan processed over 1 billion for Jeffrey Epstein despite internal concerns over sex offender status."

Fourth, *The New York Times*, "Bank of America flagged suspicious payments to Epstein only after he died."

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. I also have a motion, Mr. Chair.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady is recognized. We are going to come back to the motion I thought was made by Mr.—I want to dismiss our witness.

Mr. RASKIN. Can we do the motion before he goes? Mainly, I just wanted to press the motion I originally had.

Chair JORDAN. We are going to bring that up. Is that what this is? Are you doing that?

Ms. SCANLON. No, this is another motion.

Chair JORDAN. OK. Well, I am going to recognize first the gentleman because we held that motion in abeyance.

Mr. BIGGS. I still have a UC, Mr. Chair.

Mr. RASKIN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So look. There are four banks, JPMorgan, Bank of New York, Bank of America, and Deutsche Bank who—

Chair JORDAN. If the gentleman can state his motion.

Mr. RASKIN. Yes, the motion is to subpoena the CEOs of these four banks to bring in all records relating to the relationship top Jeffrey Epstein and to produce all records reflecting it.

These four banks have flagged to the government \$1.5 billion in suspicious transactions relating to—

Mr. BIGGS. Motion to table.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Dimon just released a statement saying—

Mr. BIGGS. Chair, you don't need to—

Chair JORDAN. Motion to table the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland. The motion to table is not debatable. The question occurs on the motion to table.

Those in favor say, aye. Those opposed, no. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it. The motion is tabled.

Mr. RASKIN. I would like a recorded vote if we could, Mr. Chair.

Chair JORDAN. With a recorded vote being requested, the clerk will call. We got to get the clerk here. Oh, the clerk is right here. The clerk will call the role.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Jordan.

Chair JORDAN. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Jordan votes yes.

Mr. Issa.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Biggs.

Mr. BIGGS. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Biggs votes aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. McClintock.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. McClintock votes aye.

Mr. Tiffany.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Massie.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Roy.

Mr. ROY. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Roy votes aye.

Mr. Fitzgerald.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Cline.

Mr. CLINE. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Cline votes aye.

Mr. Gooden.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Van Drew.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Nehls.

Mr. NEHLS. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Nehls votes yes.

Mr. Moore.

Mr. MOORE. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moore votes yes.

Mr. Kiley.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Hageman.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lee.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Hunt.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fry.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Grothman.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Grothman votes aye.
Mr. Knott.
Mr. KNOTT. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Knott votes aye.
Mr. Harris.
Mr. HARRIS. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Harris votes aye.
Mr. Onder.
Mr. ONDER. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Onder votes aye.
Mr. Schmidt.
Mr. SCHMIDT. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Schmidt votes aye.
Mr. Gill.
Mr. GILL. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Gill votes aye.
Mr. Baumgartner.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Raskin.
Mr. RASKIN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Raskin votes no.
Mr. Nadler.
Mr. NADLER. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Nadler votes no.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lofgren.
Ms. LOFGREN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lofgren votes no.
Mr. Cohen.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Johnson.
Mr. JOHNSON. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Johnson votes no.
Mr. Swalwell.
Mr. SWALWELL. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Swalwell votes no.
Mr. Lieu.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Jayapal.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Correa.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Scanlon.
Ms. SCANLON. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Scanlon votes no.
Mr. Neguse.
Mr. NEGUSE. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Neguse votes no.
Ms. McBath.
Ms. MCBATH. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. McBath votes no.
Ms. Ross.
Ms. ROSS. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Ross votes no.
Ms. Balint.

Ms. BALINT. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Balint votes no.

Mr. Garcia.

Mr. GARCIA. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Garcia votes no.

Ms. Kamlager-Dove.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moskowitz.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moskowitz votes no.

Mr. Goldman.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Crockett.

Ms. CROCKETT. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Crockett votes no.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Texas, Mr. Gooden.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Gooden.

Mr. GOODEN. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Gooden votes yes.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Mr. Chair, how am I recorded?

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from New York.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Goldman, you are not recorded.

Mr. GOLDMAN. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Goldman votes no.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Jayapal votes no.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from California.

Mr. LIEU. No.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from California.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Lieu votes no.

Ms. Kamlager-Dove votes no.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Massie votes no.

Chair JORDAN. Director, I want to thank you again for being here. While we are waiting for Members to get back to record their vote, you don't need to stay around for these kind of motions.

We appreciate the service you are providing the country. We appreciate your testimony today, and we appreciate the fact that you did it in five hours straight. That is amazing. God bless you and keep up the good work.

The witness is dismissed. I know, but I am dismissing the witness. I don't think—nothing at all.

Mr. RASKIN. I just put it in the record, Mr. Chair.

Chair JORDAN. We are still waiting for Members to come back to record their vote on the motion offered by the gentleman from—

Mr. RASKIN. As a point of order, I just wanted to establish that the dismissal of the witness doesn't affect the viability of the motions.

Chair JORDAN. The Committee is still going.

Ms. CROCKETT. Madam Clerk, point of order. What is the current vote?

Mr. RASKIN. Point of order.

Chair JORDAN. The vote is open. We will be waiting for Members to get back to record their vote.

The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fitzgerald votes aye.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. KILEY. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Kiley votes aye.

Mr. RASKIN. The gentleman from California, Mr. Chair, is he going to be recognized?

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Correa?

Mr. CORREA. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Correa votes no.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Chair, point of order.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman may State his point.

Mr. RASKIN. A number of Members have conflicting markups and Committee hearings are going on right now. I am just wondering how long we are going to hold this open. My read on the vote is that right now it is 18-14-17 or 19-16?

Chair JORDAN. We are going to give Members an opportunity. As you point out, as the Ranking Members points out, Members have numerous obligations, different Committees going on. We want to give everyone an opportunity to record their vote and that is why we are waiting.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chair, point of order.

Chair JORDAN. State your point of order.

Ms. CROCKETT. Couldn't we just be debating instead of sitting here waiting?

Chair JORDAN. There is a motion on the table. There was a motion offered by the Ranking Member, a motion to table offered by a Member. That is what is on the table right now.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Van Dew, you are not recorded.

Mr. VAN DREW. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Van Drew votes yes.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from Wyoming.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lee.

Ms. LEE. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lee votes yes.

Ms. Hageman.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Hageman votes yes.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from Florida and Wyoming.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Knott, you are recorded as yes.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Tiffany.

Mr. TIFFANY. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Tiffany votes aye.

Chair JORDAN. The clerk will report.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Chair, there are 20 ayes and 19 noes.

Chair JORDAN. The ayes have it. The motion is tabled. The gentlelady is recognized from Pennsylvania.

Ms. SCANLON. Thank you, Mr.—

Chair JORDAN. For what purpose?

Ms. SCANLON. I have a motion.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady may State the motion.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. Pursuant to clause 2(k)(6) of Rule 11, I move that the Committee subpoena U.S. Treasury Secretary Bessent to produce or otherwise make available to the committee all suspicious activity reports in the possession of the Treasury Department identifying the roughly the \$1.5 billion in suspicious transactions.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I move to delay the motion on the table.

Chair JORDAN. The motion is not debatable.

Ms. SCANLON. I didn't finish.

Mr. RASKIN. She didn't complete the motion. It is improper to cut it off before it is completed, Mr. Chair.

Chair JORDAN. Finish your last sentence there. The gentlelady can finish.

Ms. SCANLON. OK. We are asking them to identify the roughly \$1.5 billion in suspicious transactions related to the sex-trafficking crimes of Epstein, Maxwell, and their co-conspirators. As we know, Mr. Patel said that the Treasury—

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I move to delay the motion on the table.

Chair JORDAN. The motion is not debatable, the question occurs on the motion to table.

Those in favor say, aye. Those opposed, no.

Ms. SCANLON. I request a recorded vote.

Chair JORDAN. A recorded vote being requested, the clerk will call the roll.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Jordan.

Chair JORDAN. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Jordan votes yes.

Mr. Issa.

Mr. ISSA. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Issa votes yes.

Mr. Biggs.

Mr. BIGGS. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Biggs votes aye.

Mr. McClintock.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. McClintock votes aye.

Mr. Tiffany.

Mr. TIFFANY. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Tiffany votes aye.

Mr. Massie.

Mr. MASSIE. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Massie votes no.

Mr. Roy.

Mr. ROY. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Roy votes aye.

Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fitzgerald votes aye.

Mr. Cline.

Mr. CLINE. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Cline votes aye.

Mr. Gooden.
Mr. GOODEN. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Gooden votes aye.
Mr. Van Drew.
Mr. VAN DREW. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Van Drew votes yes.
Mr. Nehls.
Mr. NEHLS. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Nehls votes yes.
Mr. Moore.
Mr. MOORE. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moore votes yes.
Mr. Kiley.
Mr. KILEY. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Kiley votes aye.
Ms. Hageman.
Ms. HAGEMAN. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Hageman votes aye.
Ms. Lee.
Ms. LEE. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lee votes aye.
Mr. Hunt.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fry.
Mr. FRY. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fry votes aye.
Mr. Grothman.
Mr. GROTHMAN. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Grothman votes aye.
Mr. Knott.
Mr. KNOTT. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Knott votes aye.
Mr. Harris.
Mr. HARRIS. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Harris votes aye.
Mr. Onder.
Mr. ONDER. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Onder votes aye.
Mr. Schmidt.
Mr. SCHMIDT. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Schmidt votes aye.
Mr. Gill.
Mr. GILL. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Gill votes aye.
Mr. Baumgartner.
Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Baumgartner votes aye.
Mr. Raskin.
Mr. RASKIN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Raskin votes no.
Mr. Nadler.
Mr. NADLER. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Nadler votes no.
Ms. Lofgren.

Ms. LOFGREN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lofgren votes no.
Mr. Cohen.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Johnson.
Mr. JOHNSON. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Johnson votes no.
Mr. Swalwell.
Mr. SWALWELL. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Swalwell votes no.
Mr. Lieu.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Jayapal.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Correa.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Scanlon.
Ms. SCANLON. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Scanlon votes no.
Mr. Neguse.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. McBath.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Ross.
Ms. ROSS. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Ross votes no.
Ms. Balint.
Ms. BALINT. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Balint votes no.
Mr. Garcia.
Mr. GARCIA. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Garcia votes no.
Ms. Kamlager-Dove.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moskowitz.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Goldman.
Mr. GOLDMAN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Goldman votes no.
Ms. Crockett.
Ms. CROCKETT. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Crockett votes no.
Ms. JAYAPAL. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Jayapal votes no.
Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from California.
Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. How am I recorded?
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Kamlager-Dove is not recorded.
Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Kamlager-Dove votes no.
Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from California.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Lieu, you are not recorded.
Mr. LIEU. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Lieu votes no.
Mr. Moskowitz.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moskowitz votes no.

Chair JORDAN. The clerk will report.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Chair, there are 23 ayes and 16 noes.

Chair JORDAN. The motion to table carries.

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Chair, I have a motion.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman can state his motion—he is recognized to State his motion.

Mr. SWALWELL. Great. I hope that champion of free speech, Mr. McClintock, lets me read it.

Mr. Chair, pursuant to clause 2(k)(6) of Rule 11, I move that the Committee subpoena Deputy FBI Director, Dan Bongino, to produce and testify why the Director is unwilling to discuss and share with Congress the files related to Jeffrey Epstein, including witness interview records, including FBI Forms 302, search warrant materials, records relating to the initiation and investigations, records relating to financial transactions and payments, evidence collected from wire taps. The FBI Director said today that they have already released these documents. Bongino has reportedly considered resigning his position over the refusal to release the full Epstein files.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I am delighted to see that my colleague can read, and I move to lay his motion on the table.

Chair JORDAN. The motion is not debatable. The question occurs on the motion to table.

Those in favor will say aye. Those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it. The motion is tabled.

Mr. SWALWELL. I also can call for a vote, Mr. Chair, a recorded vote.

Chair JORDAN. A recorded vote being requested, the clerk will call the roll.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Jordan.

Chair JORDAN. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Jordan votes yes.

Mr. Issa.

Mr. ISSA. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Issa votes yes.

Mr. Biggs.

Mr. BIGGS. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Biggs votes aye.

Mr. McClintock.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. McClintock votes aye.

Mr. Tiffany.

[No response.]

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Massie.

Mr. MASSIE. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Massie votes no.

Mr. Roy.

Mr. ROY. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Roy votes aye.

Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fitzgerald votes aye.
Mr. Cline.
Mr. CLINE. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Cline votes aye.
Mr. Gooden.
Mr. GOODEN. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Gooden votes aye.
Mr. Van Drew.
Mr. VAN DREW. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Van Drew votes yes.
Mr. Nehls.
Mr. NEHLS. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Nehls votes yes.
Mr. Moore.
Mr. MOORE. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moore votes yes.
Mr. Kiley.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Hageman.
Ms. HAGEMAN. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Hageman votes yes.
Ms. Lee.
Ms. LEE. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lee votes aye.
Mr. Hunt.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fry.
Mr. FRY. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fry votes aye.
Mr. Grothman.
Mr. GROTHMAN. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Grothman votes aye.
Mr. Knott.
Mr. KNOTT. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Knott votes aye.
Mr. Harris.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Onder.
Mr. ONDER. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Onder votes aye.
Mr. Schmidt.
Mr. SCHMIDT. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Schmidt votes aye.
Mr. Gill.
Mr. GILL. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Gill votes aye.
Mr. Baumgartner.
Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Baumgartner votes aye.
Mr. Raskin.
Mr. RASKIN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Raskin votes no.
Mr. Nadler.

Mr. NADLER. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Nadler votes no.
Ms. Lofgren.
Ms. LOFGREN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lofgren votes no.
Mr. Cohen.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Johnson.
Mr. JOHNSON. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Johnson votes no.
Mr. Swalwell.
Mr. SWALWELL. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Swalwell votes no.
Mr. Lieu.
Mr. LIEU. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Lieu votes no.
Ms. Jayapal.
Ms. JAYAPAL. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Jayapal votes no.
Mr. Correa.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Scanlon.
Ms. SCANLON. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Scanlon votes no.
Mr. Neguse.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. McBath.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Ross.
Ms. ROSS. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Ross votes no.
Ms. Balint.
Ms. BALINT. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Balint votes no.
Mr. Garcia.
Mr. GARCIA. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Garcia votes no.
Ms. Kamlager-Dove.
Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Kamlager-Dove votes no.
Mr. Moskowitz.
Mr. MOSKOWITZ. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moskowitz votes no.
Mr. Goldman.
Mr. GOLDMAN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Goldman votes no.
Ms. Crockett.
Ms. CROCKETT. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Crockett votes no.
Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin.
Mr. TIFFANY. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Tiffany votes aye.
Chair JORDAN. The clerk will report.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Chair, there are 23 ayes and 16 noes.

Chair JORDAN. The motion to table is successful. That concludes today's—

Ms. CROCKETT. No. I have got one.

Chair JORDAN. The gentlelady from Texas is recognized.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will tell you when I am done reading. Mr. Chair, pursuant to Clause 2(k)(6) of Rule 11, I move that the Committee subpoena the head of the Bureau of Prisons, William K. Marshall to discuss and produce all records relating to the transfer of Jeffrey Epstein coconspirator and child sex trafficker, Ghislaine Maxwell, in apparent violation of BOP policies regarding sex offenders to include all BOP communications with DOJ, FBI, and the White House, BOP transferred Maxwell to a minimum security camp following her interview with President Trump's former personal attorney and now Deputy Attorney General Ty Blanche.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I move to lay the motion on the table.

Chair JORDAN. The motion is on the table.

Ms. CROCKETT. I am done reading now.

Chair JORDAN. The motion is not debatable. The question occurs on the motion to table.

Those in favor will say aye. Those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

Ms. CROCKETT. I would ask for a recorded vote.

Chair JORDAN. A recorded vote being requested, the clerk will call the roll.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Jordan.

Chair JORDAN. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Jordan votes yes.

Mr. Issa.

Mr. ISSA. Yes.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Issa votes yes.

Mr. Biggs.

Mr. BIGGS. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Biggs votes aye.

Mr. McClintock.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. McClintock votes aye.

Mr. Tiffany.

Mr. TIFFANY. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Tiffany votes aye.

Mr. Massie.

Mr. MASSIE. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Massie votes no.

Mr. Roy

Mr. ROY. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Roy votes aye.

Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fitzgerald votes aye.

Mr. Cline.

Mr. CLINE. Aye.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Cline votes aye.

Mr. Gooden.
Mr. GOODEN. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Gooden votes aye.
Mr. Van Drew.
Mr. VAN DREW. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Van Drew votes yes.
Mr. Nehls.
Mr. NEHLS. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Nehls votes yes.
Mr. Moore.
Mr. MOORE. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moore votes yes.
Mr. Kiley.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Hageman.
Ms. HAGEMAN. Yes.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Hageman votes yes.
Ms. Lee.
Ms. LEE. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lee votes aye.
Mr. Hunt.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fry.
Mr. FRY. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Fry votes aye.
Mr. Grothman.
Mr. GROTHMAN. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Grothman votes aye.
Mr. Knott.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Harris.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Knott.
Mr. KNOTT. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Knott votes aye.
Mr. Harris.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Onder.
Mr. ONDER. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Onder votes aye.
Mr. Schmidt.
Mr. SCHMIDT. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Schmidt votes aye.
Mr. Gill.
Mr. GILL. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Gill votes aye.
Mr. Baumgartner.
Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Aye.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Baumgartner votes aye.
Mr. Raskin.
Mr. RASKIN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Raskin votes no.
Mr. Nadler.
Mr. NADLER. No.

Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Nadler votes no.
Ms. Lofgren.
Ms. LOFGREN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Lofgren votes no.
Mr. Cohen.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Johnson.
Mr. JOHNSON. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Johnson votes no.
Mr. Swalwell.
Mr. SWALWELL. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Swalwell votes no.
Mr. Lieu.
Mr. LIEU. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Lieu votes no.
Ms. Jayapal.
Ms. JAYAPAL. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Jayapal votes no.
Mr. Correa.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Scanlon.
Ms. SCANLON. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Scanlon votes no.
Mr. Neguse.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. McBath.
[No response.]
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Ross.
Ms. ROSS. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Ross votes no.
Ms. Balint.
Ms. BALINT. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Balint votes no.
Mr. Garcia.
Mr. GARCIA. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Garcia votes no.
Ms. Kamlager-Dove.
Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Kamlager-Dove votes no.
Mr. Moskowitz.
Mr. MOSKOWITZ. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Moskowitz votes no.
Mr. Goldman.
Mr. GOLDMAN. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Goldman votes no.
Ms. Crockett.
Ms. CROCKETT. No.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Ms. Crockett votes no.
Chair JORDAN. The clerk will report.
Ms. BIDELMAN. Mr. Chair, there are 21 ayes and 16 noes.
Chair JORDAN. The motion to table is agreed to.
Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair? Point of inquiry.
Chair JORDAN. The gentleman will State his point.

Mr. ROY. Am I correct that the House Oversight Committee led by Chair Comer is issuing a significant number of subpoenas along the lines of some of the things we have been talking about today, but in general terms of pursuing a lot of the questions that are being raised here today and others?

Chair JORDAN. That is accurate. Specifically, the SARs, they are actually getting the SARs from the Treasury Department, which is something that we think is important. That material is going to the Oversight Committee.

Mr. GARCIA. May I ask a followup question? Over here.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from New York is recognized.

Mr. GARCIA. Is it your understanding that the Oversight Committee has requested the documents listed in Mr. Swalwell's subpoena, the recordings, the witness statements, the photographs, and the materials seized by search warrant.

Chair JORDAN. I have to look at those carefully. I know that it is a broad subpoena, and it includes all kinds of files.

Mr. GARCIA. Oddly enough, it excludes all those essential documents that are in the possession of the FBI.

Chair JORDAN. I think that would be included in the case files that have been subpoenaed,

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. I have a UC—several UCs.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman can state his unanimous consent request.

Mr. BIGGS. Yes. First, "Democrat Running for Attorney General Issues Profanity Laced Charlie Kirk Post."

Second, "Cleveland Fire Chief Removed from Duty Over Incendiary Charlie Kirk Social Media Post."

Third, "Generic Combinations of Political Violence Won't Stop the Left from Escalating It."

Fourth, "2 weeks before Charlie Kirk was assassinated," CNN runs widely viewed interview with Destiny describing Charlie Kirk as spawn of Satan.

Let's see here. The next one is—I am having trouble finding it, sir. I will submit it for the record later, the rest of these. I have another 30 so I will just submit those later.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Chair.

Chair JORDAN. The gentleman from New York is recognized for what purpose?

Mr. NADLER. Point of information. With respect to everything that Mr. Biggs just read, so what? It is all free speech.

Chair JORDAN. First amendment is alive and well in this very country and thank the good Lord for that. The gentleman from Florida. For what purpose does the gentleman seek recognition.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Point of information. To the question that Mr. Roy was raising about that is being done in the Oversight Committee, I am just curious. Was Mr. Roy asking because he believes that should be done in the Judiciary Committee instead or he was just confirming that it is being done in general?

Chair JORDAN. I don't know the motives behind Mr. Roy's statement. I just know what Mr. Roy said.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. I think Mr. Roy is here.

Chair JORDAN. Yes. That concludes—well, you can talk to him. You can go talk to him. You can walk right across the thing.

That concludes today's hearing.

Mr. RASKIN. I have a UC.

Chair JORDAN. Man, this is a record day for UCs. Go ahead. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for the final UC.

Mr. RASKIN. Thank you. This is it. "Timeline suggests Trump team changed its tune on Epstein files after Trump was told he was in them." *CNN Politics*.

Chair JORDAN. Without objection. Without objection, all Members will have five legislative days to submit additional written questions for the witness or additional materials for the record. Without objection, the hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:12 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

All materials submitted for the record by Members of the Committee on the Judiciary can be found at: <https://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=118612>.

