

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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Dear Chairman Jordan and Chairman Loudermilk:

In December 2022, the bipartisan Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol released an 800-page report, together with a library of supporting materials that remains online to this day, detailing the findings of its 18-month investigation into the facts, circumstances, and causes that led to this violent attack on the Capitol, the Congress, and the Constitution. The report was based on the Committee's interview of more than 1,000 witnesses and its review of more than 1 million documents and hundreds of hours of video. Throughout its investigation, the Committee kept the American people informed of its work through televised, bipartisan hearings.

It is essential that our newly formed Select Subcommittee operate with the same commitment to bipartisan investigation, scrupulous devotion to the facts, and public transparency that defined the work of its predecessor in the 117th Congress.

We thus call upon you to commit to a fully transparent process with open hearings and full public disclosure. Surely the American public, which witnessed the unprecedented mass violent attack on the peaceful transfer of power on January 6, 2021, and the law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line to protect us, deserve no less.

Our predecessor Select Committee pursued in the eyes of the nation ten rigorously defined topics for investigation, and we should do the same. We propose that the new Select Subcommittee conduct public hearings on the following topics, each aimed not only at completing the work of documenting the circumstances surrounding the attack on the Capitol, but also resolving several new points of significant and urgent public interest. The topics are as follows:

- **Has Congress sufficiently supported all the law enforcement officers who defended the Capitol with their lives and were violently injured on January 6th?** At least 140 law enforcement officers were assaulted and beaten by extremists and rioters on January 6th. More than 200 rioters were convicted of assaulting a law enforcement officer before receiving a presidential pardon. At least five officers died in the days that followed. Many other officers were permanently disabled by injuries sustained. The remarkable commitment and sacrifice of the officers—seen live by the entire world—drew the thin blue line that protected our constitutional order from political assassination and a stolen

presidential election. These officers deserve to be honored, and they deserve to be made whole. The Select Subcommittee should thus explore the difficulties these officers have had in obtaining medical care, returning to work, and not losing pay and career progress. Our Select Subcommittee should explore the possibility of establishing a Victims' Compensation Fund to provide medical care and financial support for the officers who were injured and harmed, both physically and mentally, by these horrific events. The Select Subcommittee should also explore whether legislation is needed to eliminate the various bureaucratic challenges that many officers face as they attempt to obtain retirement, health, death, disability, and other benefits they have earned. We must also discuss how we can ensure that the House of Representatives will comply with federal law and direct the placement of a memorial plaque to honor the officers who came to defend the Capitol that day, an existing federal statutory mandate that Speaker Mike Johnson has defied for 909 days.

- **Can Congress secure the testimony and full cooperation of the individuals who were witness to, and/or participated in, the insurrectionary effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election, but who willfully defied congressional subpoenas from our predecessor Committee and were held in contempt of Congress for obstructing the investigation?** Nine individuals defied their subpoenas and refused to provide evidence to the Select Committee, including four who were held in contempt of Congress and two who were convicted for contempt of Congress. The Select Subcommittee should vigorously pursue testimony from these individuals. The Select Subcommittee should also pursue any outstanding evidence regarding perpetrators that remain unidentified, including those who assaulted law enforcement officers on January 6th and who placed pipe bombs at the Republican National Committee building and the Democratic National Committee Building on the evening of January 5, 2021.
- **What have been the public safety and policy consequences of pardoning nearly 1,600 criminals who attacked the Capitol and assaulted police officers?** On his first day back in office, President Trump issued a blanket pardon for nearly 1,600 January 6th rioters, including those convicted of acts of extreme physical violence, released the leaders of the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers, and erased all restitution payments and fines these defendants owed directly to their victims and American taxpayers. Shortly thereafter, he fired the career prosecutors who did their duty holding these criminals accountable, depriving the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia of experienced and talented attorneys assigned to prosecute violent crime in our nation's capital. In the seven months since, at least ten January 6th rioters have been rearrested, charged, or sentenced for other crimes—including plotting the murder of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, sexual assault of a child, possession of child sexual abuse material, and reckless homicide while driving drunk. What safety precautions have been undertaken to protect our communities in the wake of the termination of the sentences and rehabilitation process of the pardoned insurrectionists?


- **Have the events of January 6th and the subsequent efforts to downplay the severity of the violence contributed to the subsequent rise of political violence and domestic violent extremism in America?** In the four and a half years since the January 6th attack, our country has witnessed an alarming rise in political violence and domestic extremism. Communities around the country have been targeted by mass killers motivated by racist and hateful ideologies. Politically motivated attacks—like the two assassination attempts against President Trump, the assassination of Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband and the shootings of Minnesota State Senator John Hoffman and his wife, the break-in and arson at the home of Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, the break-in at Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s home and violent assault against her husband, Luigi Mangione’s murder of Brian Thompson, the murder of two Israeli embassy employees on the streets of Washington, D.C., and the recent cold-blooded assassination of Charlie Kirk—have proliferated across the country and shaken the public. We must investigate and understand the causes of these hateful acts of political violence, including the role played by online platforms in promoting violent propaganda, extremism and conspiracy theories. What can be done to dramatically reduce the incidence of political violence?
- **Have we sufficiently secured the United States Capitol for Members of Congress, staff, and visitors, and what have we done generally to improve security for public officials targeted by extremists?** We must ensure that the security vulnerabilities exposed by the January 6th attack on the Capitol are fully addressed, including by ensuring that the Capitol Police, and all other law enforcement agencies who support and provide services to the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP), have the resources necessary to keep the U.S. Capitol safe for everyone who works in and visits the Capitol complex. The Select Subcommittee should explore whether the District of Columbia should have the legal authority to immediately deploy its own National Guard in support of U.S. Capitol Police in times of emergency.
- **Has the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol emboldened authoritarian leaders and energized violent extremist movements in countries around the world to attack constitutional processes and the peaceful transfer of power?** We know that January 6th has emboldened many extremists worldwide. Just two years after the attack on the U.S. Capitol, supporters of former Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro staged a copycat assault on Brazil’s political institutions. Former President Bolsonaro has been convicted of—and sentenced to prison for 27 years for—orchestrating an attempted coup against the government and plotting the assassination of his political opponents. In South Korea, when right-wing demonstrators gathered to protest the impeachment of former president Yoon Suk Yeol, they held banners that read “Stop the Steal” (in English) and waved American flags. To what extent are these cases representative of the global consequences of January 6th and the effort to minimize and rewrite the events that defined it?

- **What more do we know now from the subsequent criminal trials of members of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers about the coordination among paramilitary organizations, violent anti-government extremist groups and self-proclaimed militias in the planning and execution of the January 6th attack, and what continuing threat do they pose today?** Our predecessor Committee found clear evidence of planning and coordination among several groups, and much more evidence has since come to light in the criminal trials and convictions of members of the Proud Boys, the Oath Keepers, and the Three Percenters who participated in the attack, including those who amassed a massive stockpile of firearms and other weaponry stashed in Arlington, Virginia. Do we presently have a more comprehensive understanding of how the planning of the attack took place? Do we know how much of a threat is currently posed by these same groups in the wake of the presidential pardons? The Select Subcommittee should examine the national security threat posed by these groups, both individually and collectively, and gain a better understanding of their influence, goals, recruitment efforts, and commonalities, all with the aim of preventing future attacks and violence.
- **Has Congress sufficiently addressed the weaknesses and vulnerabilities within the Electoral College design and certification process to ensure that they will not come under attack by political coups and violent insurrections in the future?** Passage of the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act of 2022 was a first effort to address the structural inadequacies exposed on January 6, 2021. Are there other reforms and fixes indicated given continuing efforts, despite all evidence, to deny that President Biden won the 2020 election?

The mission of this Select Subcommittee must be to fully understand the character of the January 6th attack and the consequences of its treatment under law, as well as to secure our constitutional democracy and government against all future attacks. We stand ready to work with you on this important assignment on behalf of the American people. We hope you will join us in this essential endeavor.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee


Eric Swalwell
Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee to Investigate
Remaining Questions Surrounding
January 6, 2021