

## **Duncan Opening Statement**

Thank you, Chairman and Members of the Committee for inviting me to testify here today.

In 2020, Donald Trump lost the election in Georgia by more than 11,000 votes and he immediately launched a pressure campaign trying to get elected officials like me to overturn the election. I was a Republican, but I wasn't going to throw out millions of votes in this state, so I stood up to Trump. It put a target on my back immediately.

I am often asked: “why'd you do it, Geoff? Why'd you stand up against a sitting president? Why did you take on an entire party that was working against you and your desire to validate an election?”

Well, I remember in the throes of the post-2020 election in a very difficult time for my family – when fully armed state patrol troopers were stationed outside of our house, and my wife was getting death threats, and my kids were getting picked on at school – my son walked downstairs and reminded me of our family motto. He said, “Hey, Dad, doing the right thing will never be the wrong thing.”

And he was absolutely right. That gave me the courage to stand up and keep moving.

It's why I campaigned all across the country for Vice President Kamala Harris in 2024. Speaking at the DNC and in nearly every battleground state because I knew that Donald Trump shouldn't be president again. And I was right.

It's why I switched parties. And it's why today I'm running for Governor of Georgia as a proud Democrat.

We all saw what happened on January 6. And with Donald Trump back in the White House, we see his allies working to enact his agenda in the states too.

My likely opponent in the Georgia Governor's race is Burt Jones, who was one of Trump's fake electors. That's why I fired him as the chair of the Insurance Committee. And when he asked why, I said, "if you're willing to lie about an election, I don't think I can trust you to chair a committee as important as this." And that's the difference between me and him that voters will see.

Trump is a man-made disaster and now Georgia is in the midst of a crisis like we've never seen before, and Georgians need somebody who has the courage to stand up – not just to only stand up to Donald Trump, but to stand up in this moment for them and their families. I had the courage to stand up to Trump when it mattered most in 2020.

But five years after January 6 we all have a collective mission to stand up to Trump. To not let the reality of what happened on that day give way to the lies, corruption, and violence of Donald Trump's vision for America. I'm doing that in Georgia in my campaign by building a coalition of Georgians who are ready to elect someone that's willing to fight for them.

I implore all of us in this room and across the country to do the same.