

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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July 15, 2025

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan:

We write to request that the Committee on the Judiciary quickly conduct a bipartisan hearing on the Trump Administration's recent handling of the Jeffrey Epstein matter. To that end, we request that the Committee invite—and, if necessary, subpoena—Attorney General Pam Bondi, Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel, and Deputy FBI Director Dan Bongino to testify publicly about the Trump Administration's review of the Epstein matter, including the conclusions set forth in the undated and unsigned Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI memo providing that “no further disclosure would be appropriate or warranted.”¹

President Trump and his top appointees at the DOJ and FBI have spent years advancing theories that “the Deep State” has been suppressing the true magnitude of the child sex trafficking and abuse ring created by Jeffrey Epstein and his associates. The President's team has argued that the “Deep State” backers of Mr. Epstein have been blocking the release of Mr. Epstein's “client list” to protect “powerful elites” from being revealed as criminal predators, and that these conspirators effectuated the murder of Mr. Epstein in his jail cell in order to silence him and protect other participants in the sex trafficking ring that preyed on underaged women from public exposure. During the 2024 presidential campaign, President Trump, when asked by Fox News if he would “declassify the Epstein files,” answered “Yeah, yeah I would.”² Mr. Patel and Mr. Bongino both trafficked in the “Epstein files” and other convoluted conspiracy theories to gain notice among President Trump's supporters, including calling for the federal government to release Mr. Epstein's complete “list.”³ Mr. Bongino told his podcast audience in September

¹ Statement, U.S. Dep't of Justice, Fed. Bureau of Inv., <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl> (last visited July 15, 2025).

² Ashley Oliver, *10 reasons the DOJ and FBI face backlash over Epstein files flop*, FOX NEWS (July 10, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/10-reasons-doj-fbi-face-backlash-over-epstein-files-flop>.

³ Jude Joffe-Block, Lisa Hagen & Audrey Nguyen, *How Kash Patel has used children's books and podcasts to promote conspiracy theories*, NPR (Dec. 10, 2024), <https://www.npr.org/2024/12/09/nx-s1-5213692/kash-patel->

2024 that the “Epstein client list is a huge deal” and there is “a reason they’re hiding it.”⁴ Mr. Patel said in November 2024 that the process of “restoring trust” in the federal government could require publicly releasing the “Epstein list.”⁵ These claims have sunk deep into the public consciousness due in no small part to President Trump, Mr. Patel, Mr. Bongino, and others’ continued authoritative hyping of “Epstein files” conspiracy theories to energize President Trump’s supporters.

Following his election, President Trump appointed Mr. Patel, Mr. Bongino, Ms. Bondi, Mr. Blanche, and other close political supporters to leadership posts at the DOJ. These appointees now found themselves in the position of having to untangle and document the intricate web of conspiracy theories that they and President Trump have offered to the public. In fact, the “Epstein Files” had become so intertwined with the MAGA movement that President Trump, Vice President Vance, Ms. Bondi, and Mr. Patel invited MAGA influencers to the White House in February and provided them a “binder copy of the Epstein files.”⁶ However, this attempt to placate MAGA supporters backfired almost immediately as the information contained in the binders, while promoted by the Trump Administration as new, consisted largely of recycled information already publicly available.⁷ A tweet at the time authored by Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL) captured the sentiment of many MAGA supporters following the February meeting at the White House: “GET US THE INFORMATION WE ASKED FOR instead of leaking old info to press.”⁸

Last week, in an unsigned, undated two-page statement, the DOJ and FBI reported that a “systematic review revealed no incriminating ‘client list’”; that “[t]here was also no credible evidence found that Epstein blackmailed prominent individuals as part of his actions”; and that “[w]e did not uncover evidence that could predicate an investigation against uncharged third parties.”⁹ The statement further concludes that “it is the determination of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that no further disclosure would be appropriate or warranted.”¹⁰ Essentially, the Administration is saying: “Nothing to see here!”

Unsurprisingly, the FBI’s conclusions did not remotely satisfy the expectations of MAGA supporters built up by President Trump, Ms. Bondi, Mr. Patel and Mr. Bongino over many months and years of agitation around the case.¹¹ After all, just five months ago, Ms. Bondi, when

conspiracy-theories-fbi; Farrah Tomazin, *From MAGA Outsider to FBI Insider: Who Is Dan Bongino?*, DAILY BEAST (July 12, 2025), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/from-maga-outsider-to-fbi-insider-who-is-dan-bongino/>.

⁴ Ashley Oliver, *10 reasons the DOJ and FBI face backlash over Epstein files flop*, FOX NEWS (July 10, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/10-reasons-doj-fbi-face-backlash-over-epstein-files-flop>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Alex Isenstadt, *White House briefs conservative influencers on Epstein files*, AXIOS (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/02/27/trump-white-house-conservative-influencers>.

⁷ Kerry Breen, *Right-wing influencers get binders labeled “The Epstein Files,” but downplay revelations*, CBS NEWS (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/right-wing-influencers-get-bindings-labeled-the-epstein-files-but-downplay-revelations/>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Statement, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Fed. Bureau of Inv., <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl> (last visited July 15, 2025).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Emma Colton, *MAGA world erupts over Trump’s defense of Bondi amid Epstein files fallout*, FOX NEWS (July 13, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/maga-world-erupts-over-trumps-defense-bondi-amid-epstein-files-fallout>.

asked during a Fox News interview if she planned to release a “list of Epstein’s clients,” had responded: “[i]t’s sitting on my desk right now to review. That’s been a directive by President Trump. I’m reviewing that.”¹² The following month, she told Fox News host Sean Hannity that a “source” informed her that the Epstein files “were being kept, [in the] Southern District of New York, shock” and that “Director Patel is going to get us a detailed report as to why the FBI withheld all of those documents” and that a “truckload of evidence arrived” at DOJ at her request.¹³ It is hard to conceive how one could square these promises to Fox News viewers with the summary dismissive conclusions in last week’s statement.

Since last week’s statement, Ms. Bondi, Mr. Blanche, Mr. Patel, and Mr. Bongino have engaged in a round of public finger pointing. In response to reports that Mr. Bongino was trying to distance himself from the statement and was considering resigning from the FBI over it, Mr. Blanche felt it necessary to publicly insist that all of them had signed off on it in advance.¹⁴

President Trump himself has done a complete U-turn and is now publicly disparaging the significance of the vaunted “Epstein files.” Since some of his most fervent supporters have begun to publicly criticize his Administration, President Trump has responded to reporters’ queries with indignant replies like, “[a]re you still talking about Jeffrey Epstein?” and released statements on social media imploring his supporters “not [to] waste Time and Energy on Jeffrey Epstein, somebody that nobody cares about.”¹⁵

Mr. Epstein reportedly took his own life to escape justice, robbing his victims and the public of an opportunity to hold him accountable for his shocking crimes. In the absence of facts and evidence related to Mr. Epstein’s sex trafficking enterprise and the “vast network” of underage victims he created, the public will turn to conspiracy theories to fill the void of credible information. Alas, President Trump and his team, acting out of personal and political self-interest or some other more inscrutable motive, have suppressed the release of information in their possession and, in so doing, fed yet more conspiracy theories and advanced conjecture to explain this about-face. At this point, the public has no idea if new information on the Epstein case even exists, why it was repeatedly promised to us if not, and if it does, what it may contain or mean for public safety and the victims of the Epstein ring.

The Trump DOJ and FBI’s handling of the Jeffrey Epstein matter, and President Trump’s suddenly shifting positions, have not restored anyone’s trust in the government but have rather raised profound new questions about their own conduct while increasing public paranoia related to the investigation. Only a bipartisan public hearing at which Administration officials answer

¹² Ashley Oliver, *10 reasons the DOJ and FBI face backlash over Epstein files flop*, FOX NEWS (July 10, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/10-reasons-doj-fbi-face-backlash-over-epstein-files-flop>. Attorney General Bondi later clarified that “In February, I did an interview on Fox, and it’s been getting a lot of attention because I said, I was asked a question about the client list, and my response was, ‘It’s sitting on my desk to be reviewed,’ meaning the [Epstein] file along with the JFK and MLK files, as well... That’s what I meant by that.” *Id.*

¹³ Ashley Oliver, *10 reasons the DOJ and FBI face backlash over Epstein files flop*, FOX NEWS (July 10, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/10-reasons-doj-fbi-face-backlash-over-epstein-files-flop>.

¹⁴ Glenn Thrush, *Fallout Over Handling of Epstein Case Erupts Into the Open*, N.Y. TIMES (July 11, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/11/us/politics/jeffrey-epstein-pam-bondi-dan-bongino-clash.html>.

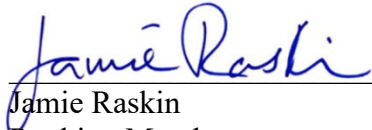
¹⁵ Jess Bidgood, *How Do You Silence a Conspiracy Theory?*, N.Y. TIMES (July 14, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/14/us/politics/conspiracy-epstein-files-trump.html>.

direct questions from elected representatives before the eyes of the American people can restore public trust on the matter.

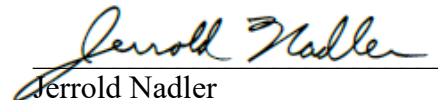
We must submit to public scrutiny President Trump's and MAGA's longstanding claims about the "Epstein files," new questions as to whether President Trump himself has something to hide, whether he is keeping damaging information secret to protect other individuals or to maintain future blackmail leverage over public and private actors or, perhaps the simplest explanation, whether President Trump and his Administration magnified and disseminated groundless Epstein conspiracy theories for purposes of political gain which they are now desperately trying to disavow and dispel.

Regardless of what the answers to these questions are, holding a public hearing at which these officials testify should go a long way toward restoring some public trust in the integrity of federal law enforcement. We therefore call upon you to use your authority as Chairman to demand that Attorney General Bondi, Deputy Attorney General Blanche, FBI Director Patel, and Deputy FBI Director Bongino step forward to testify publicly before the Committee to separate documentable facts from speculative fictions, under oath and in full view of the American people.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



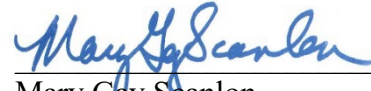
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



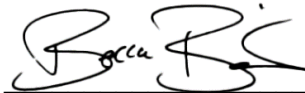
Joseph Neguse
Member of Congress



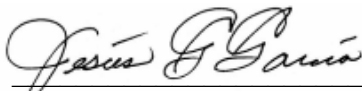
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



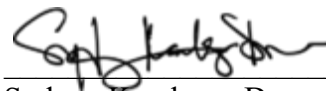
Deborah Ross
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress