

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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June 12, 2026

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer,

On Wednesday, the New York Times published explosive details on the Trump Administration's work to cover up the Epstein files.¹ The reporting reveals that officials at the highest level of the Administration worked tirelessly to deflect attention from the longstanding relationship between Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein, hide crucial information from the American people, and plan and coordinate a White House coverup. While this coverup has operated in plain sight for months, it is clear from the reporting and testimony of former Attorney General Pam Bondi that we must hear directly from additional witnesses to investigate and fully understand the Trump Administration's handling and attempted concealment of the Epstein files. I request that you take immediate efforts to have the following individuals provide testimony to the Committee about the Trump Administration's conduct relating to the Epstein files:

- **J.D. Vance**, Vice President of the United States;
- **Susie Wiles**, White House Chief of Staff;
- **Tyler Budowich**, White House Deputy Chief of Staff;
- **James Blair**, White House Deputy Chief of Staff;
- **Karoline Leavitt**, Press Secretary;
- **Steven Cheung**, Communications Director;
- **Kash Patel**, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI);
- **Dan Bongino**, former Deputy Director of the FBI; and
- **Stanley Woodward, Jr.**, Associate Attorney General.

The New York Times piece explains **"The president himself still had no interest in transparency. He wanted the whole Epstein issue buried, and he was snapping at anyone who mentioned it."** With "full transparency a nonstarter," top White House staff and Trump Administration officials extensively planned and discussed the ways to bury the Epstein files and avoid transparency to Congress, Epstein survivors, and the American public. The Situation Room

¹ *Inside the White House Freakout Over the Epstein Files*, New York Times (June 10, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/06/10/magazine/trump-epstein-files-white-house-vance-doj.html).

appears to have been re-tooled as safe location to determine the best way to undermine public interest in the Epstein files while avoiding scrutiny of Donald Trump. As the article indicates, **“Inside the White House, Trump had no interest in releasing anything.”** The American people deserve to know why.²

Critically, reporting reveals that Vice President Vance appears to have been central to the strategy discussions surrounding the release of Epstein information, describing the attention on Jeffrey Epstein as “a huge problem.” The article describes multiple Epstein meetings where Vice President Vance suggested ways to address public interest in Jeffrey Epstein, offered tactical and strategic actions on the release of information, and provided opinions on President Trump’s position. Vice President Vance was even the first to suggest that Ghislaine Maxwell be interviewed, not for investigative leads, but in hopes “It might help the president if Maxwell was willing to state that Trump had not been part of any wrongdoing with Epstein.”³ This belief appears to be directly linked to a potential *quid pro quo* in which Maxwell was moved to a minimum security prison camp in exchange for providing favorable statements about President Trump.⁴

Susie Wiles, Todd Blanche, James Blair, and the other individuals listed above also played key roles in shaping the Trump Administration’s anti-transparency efforts, including their response to the subpoena issued by the Oversight Committee and the Epstein Files Transparency Act. For his part, Dan Bongino was reportedly incensed by the Trump Administration’s attempts to sidestep transparency, so much so that he stormed out of a meeting and told a White House official that then-Attorney General Bondi needed to resign.⁵

Given the deep involvement of these individuals, it is critical for each to provide sworn testimony to the Committee about the White House’s attempted coverup of the Epstein files. All testimony in this respect must be provided under oath, videotaped, and released for full transparency to the American public and Epstein survivors. Anything less would amount to another effort to protect the Trump Administration from accountability, deny justice to Epstein’s survivors, and conceal the truth from the American people.⁶

Finally, I welcome your decision to accept our June 2, 2026, request to have **Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche** sit for an interview with this Committee. I re-emphasize that this interview must be conducted under oath and filmed for release to the public. A closed-door,

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ See Letter to William K. Marshall III, Bureau of Prisons, from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Aug. 1, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-08-01-rg-to-bop-director-marshall-re-maxwell.pdf>).

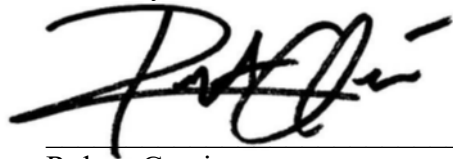
⁵ *Inside the White House Freakout Over the Epstein Files*, New York Times (June 10, 2026) (online at www.nytimes.com/2026/06/10/magazine/trump-epstein-files-white-house-vance-doj.html).

⁶ *Id.*

off the record briefing will not suffice, and any refusal by the federal government to produce Acting Attorney General Blanche must be met with compulsory process.⁷

The New York Times reporting is yet another demonstration that the Trump Administration is strictly opposed to transparency and, instead, has chosen to engage in a coverup of the Epstein files to protect Donald Trump. All of those involved must provide answers to this Committee, and we cannot support the continued withholding of answers about Jeffrey Epstein from the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

⁷ *House Oversight Chair Wants Todd Blanche to Testify on Epstein in July*, Politico (June 10, 2026) (online at www.politico.com/live-updates/2026/06/10/congress/comer-00955940); *see also* Letter to Chairman James Comer, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (June 2, 2026) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2026-06-02garciatlettertocomerreblanche1.pdf>).