

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 13, 2025

The Honorable Clay Higgins
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Higgins:

We write with serious concerns about the roundtable noticed by the Majority for May 14, 2025, titled “A View from the Frontlines: A Police Week Roundtable on Emerging Issues Facing American Law Enforcement.”¹ While the Majority’s notice describes this roundtable as being “bipartisan,” that characterization is resoundingly false.² Subcommittee Democrats have been given no information about the scope of the discussion, no written testimonies or biographies for the invited witnesses, and little clarity on what procedures—if any—will govern Members’ participation. Moreover, Majority staff has advised that, while the Majority has selected three “panelists” for this event without any consultation with the Minority, Democratic Members will not be permitted to invite their own panelist or witness as we would be entitled to do at a duly convened subcommittee hearing. Furthermore, the Majority has provided no assurances that Democratic subcommittee Members will be recognized to speak should they attend the roundtable, and if so, in what order and for how long.

By opting to convene this discussion as a roundtable and not a hearing, the Subcommittee is sidestepping House Rules that establish clear structure, expectations, and standards for Member participation and conduct. Abandoning these long-held norms undermines regular order and suggests that the Majority is attempting to sideline Democratic Members’ ability to meaningfully engage with this subject—contradicting your claims that this roundtable is a bipartisan endeavor.

We are extremely disappointed that the Minority was not afforded the opportunity to invite a witness or panelist for this roundtable. This is a disservice to the topic at hand, as it

¹ See Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Press Release: Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement Announces Roundtable on National Police Week* (May 9, 2025) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/release/subcommittee-on-federal-law-enforcement-announces-roundtable-on-national-police-week/>).

² Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, *Subcommittee Member Roundtable Notice* (May 7, 2025).

would have expanded the viewpoints and experiences being discussed, allowing Members on both sides of the aisle a holistic view of the experiences of state and local law enforcement. As you are aware, House Rules clearly provide avenues for the Minority party to invite a witness to participate in Committee hearings, ensuring that hearings, events, and discussions are not solely one-sided and simply a reaffirmation of the Majority's views.³ Your refusal to permit the Minority an opportunity to invite a witness undermines the spirit of these rules and undermines the goal of a full and robust debate.

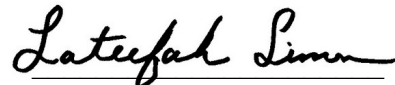
Subcommittee Democrats remain willing to engage in a bipartisan process, including with the noticed panelists, that follows regular order so that this critical topic—and all others within the jurisdiction of this subcommittee—may receive the comprehensive oversight it warrants. Moving forward, we urge the Subcommittee to convene proper hearings on the emerging issues facing federal and local law enforcement, an especially timely and pressing subject as the Trump Administration and Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) are actively undermining core public safety programs and terminating grants that directly support local law enforcement, prevent gun violence, reduce recidivism, and serve victims and survivors.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



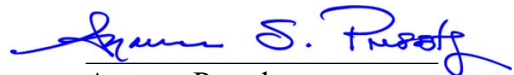
Summer L. Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement



Lateefah Simon
Vice Ranking Member



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

³ Rule XI, Clause 2(j)(1).