

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

November 21, 2025

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

After months of perpetuating his coverup of the Epstein files, President Donald Trump has finally been forced to sign the Epstein Files Transparency Act, passed almost unanimously by Congress, requiring the Department of Justice (DOJ) to release the files to the public within 30 days.¹ This law is a critical step for transparency, passed despite President Trump's overwhelming efforts to defeat it. **There is already a concern President Trump will attempt, on dubious legal grounds, to exploit a provision which allows DOJ to withhold information relevant to ongoing investigations.**² I write to remind you that the subpoena issued by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform requires you to release the complete, un-redacted Epstein files to the Committee, including classified information and material relevant to ongoing investigations, while protecting the identity of survivors and potential victims. Any additional federal investigations launched by the DOJ or the President do not impact our subpoena.

The subpoena issued by the Committee creates an independent legal obligation for DOJ to produce the files to the Committee.³ Congress has historically not given credence to any purported investigative or law enforcement privilege as a component of a broader executive privilege, and these alleged privileges are unsupported by case law.⁴ In contrast, the Supreme

¹ *Trump Signs Bill Directing Justice Department to Release Epstein Files*, Washington Post (Nov. 19, 2025) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/11/19/epstein-files-justice-department-release/).

² H.R. 4405; Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Nov. 14, 2025) (online at <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115548785919046772>).

³ Subpoena to The Hon. Pamela J. Bondi (Aug. 5, 2025) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025.08.05-Subpoena-and-Schedule-to-DOJ.pdf>).

⁴ See, e.g., Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Report on President Bush's Assertion of Executive Privilege in Response to the Committee Subpoena to Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey* (2008) (online at www.cord-levin-center.org/entities/publication/10b34e3a-4bbe-434b-85a7-24c4f695857b) (noting "There is no basis to support the proposition that a law enforcement privilege, particularly one applied to closed investigations, can shield from congressional scrutiny information that is important for addressing congressional oversight concerns.").

Court clearly explained in *Hutcheson v. United States* that “a congressional committee which is engaged in a legitimate legislative investigation need not grind to a halt whenever responses to its inquiries might potentially be harmful to a witness in some distinct proceeding ... or when crime or wrongdoing is disclosed[.]”⁵ On many occasions, congressional committees have asserted their authority “to decide for themselves whether and how to conduct their investigations” concurrently with DOJ investigations.⁶ As a district court ruled when House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan subpoenaed Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg for his involvement with the ongoing criminal prosecution of President Trump, Congress has “broad” and “indispensable” power to “conduct investigations” that it sees fit in the pursuit of legislative remedies.⁷

I further emphasize that politically motivated investigations are not a legitimate justification for withholding or redacting records under the Epstein Files Transparency Act’s permitted withholdings. Additionally, DOJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) emphasized clearly in their July 2025 memorandum that they took care “[t]o ensure that the review [of their investigative holdings relating to Jeffrey Epstein] was thorough[.]”⁸ In effect, the July 2025 memorandum and subsequent statements by President Trump and his Administration forfeit any claim DOJ may have attempted to make that a federal investigation is active for any legitimate reason.

President Trump recently proclaimed that “the House Oversight Committee can have whatever they are legally entitled to, I DON’T CARE!”⁹ We embrace that directive, which in the Committee’s case covers the entire scope of the Committee’s subpoena issued on August 5, 2025, without regard to any alleged ongoing investigations.¹⁰ I therefore expect your agency to comply immediately with the subpoena, and Oversight Democrats will take every step within our power to get the truth.

Finally, any attempt to destroy or alter evidence in DOJ’s possession may constitute a serious crime.¹¹ Any such attempt by DOJ to dodge its legal duty would also be an injustice to

⁵ 369 U.S. 599 (1962).

⁶ Georgetown University Law Center, *Congress’s Power to Investigate Crime: Did Trump Kill Kilbourn?* (2024) (online at <https://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3653&context=facpub>).

⁷ *Bragg v. Jordan*, 669 F. Supp. 3d 257 (S.D.N.Y. 2023).

⁸ Memorandum from the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation (released July 6, 2025) (online at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl?inline>).

⁹ Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Nov. 16, 2025) (online at <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115562626931599548>).

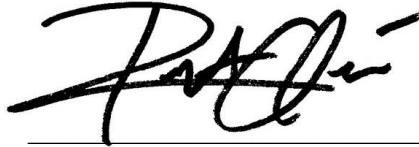
¹⁰ This is not a partisan issue; less than a year ago, the *bipartisan* House Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump unanimously concluded that “the phrase ‘ongoing investigation’ should not be treated as a magical incantation that disables Congress’ otherwise broad right of access to relevant information necessary for it to carry out its constitutional functions.” Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump, *Final Report of Findings and Recommendations* (Dec. 5, 2024) (online at <https://taskforce.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/july13taskforce.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/12-5-2024-Final-Report-Redacted.pdf>).

¹¹ See, e.g., 18 U.S.C. §2071.

the victims and survivors of Jeffrey Epstein's crimes, who, along with the American people, have demanded transparency and accountability.¹²

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Robert Garcia
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

¹² Subpoena to The Hon. Pamela J. Bondi (Aug. 5, 2025) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025.08.05-Subpoena-and-Schedule-to-DOJ.pdf>).