

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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March 5, 2023

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

I write to follow up on my request that the Committee's Republican Members join me and Committee Democrats in denouncing white nationalism and white supremacy, and the use of related conspiracy theories, including the "Great Replacement" theory, during Committee hearings and in all our work together.

As you may recall, during the Committee's February 7, 2023, hearing titled *On the Front Lines of the Border Crisis: A Hearing with Chief Patrol Agents*, several Committee Republicans invoked dangerous and conspiratorial rhetoric echoing the racist and nativist tropes peddled by white supremacists and right-wing extremists. In particular, some Members repeatedly described the number of migrants arriving at the border as an "invasion," and even went so far as to falsely accuse the Biden-Harris Administration of implementing a plan "to deliberately open our border" for purposes of "changing our culture"—mirroring language often used by MAGA extremists who believe that pro-immigration policies are designed to replace white populations with non-white immigrants and other racial minorities.¹ As I explained to you at the hearing, such language borrows from the "Great Replacement" theory, the central dogma of contemporary white supremacy that has been repeatedly invoked by white nationalists to justify violent acts of domestic terrorism, including the mass murders of dozens of Americans at a Tops Supermarket in Buffalo, New York, the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a Walmart in El Paso, Texas.²

¹ Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *Hearing on the Front Lines of the Border Crisis: A Hearing with Chief Patrol Agents* (Feb. 7, 2023) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/on-the-front-lines-of-the-border-crisis-a-hearing-with-chief-patrol-agents/>).

² *Id.*; *The Conspiracy Theory That Led to the Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting, Explained*, Vox (Oct. 29, 2018) (online at www.vox.com/2018/10/29/18037580/pittsburgh-shooter-anti-semitism-racist-jewish-caravan); "The Great Replacement: An Explainer," Anti-Defamation League (Apr. 19, 2021) (online at www.adl.org/resources/background/great-replacement-explainer); *The El Paso Screech, and the Racist Doctrine Behind It*, New York Times (Aug. 7, 2019) (online at www.nytimes.com/2019/08/07/us/el-paso-shooting-racism.html); *Buffalo Suspect Allegedly Inspired by Racist Theory Fueling Global Carnage*, Washington Post (May 15, 2022) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/05/15/buffalo-shooter-great-replacement-extremism/).

Chairman James Comer

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This is not the first time that you and other House Republicans have been called on to publicly renounce and denounce the racist and xenophobic tenets of white supremacy. On June 8, 2022, following the racially motivated Tops Supermarket mass shooting in Buffalo, New York, House Democrats passed H. Res. 1152, a resolution to condemn the “Great Replacement” theory and affirm the commitment of the People’s House to combatting white supremacy and race hatred. Despite then-Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy’s acknowledgment that white supremacy and white nationalism are “definitely not American,” not a single House Republican voted in favor of the resolution.³ In the words of the late Chairman Elijah Cummings, “we are better than this.”⁴

As Chairman, you have another opportunity to take a public stand against the deliberate amplification of dangerous racist rhetoric that has had deadly consequences in this country. That is why I am renewing my request for you and Committee Republicans to join Committee Democrats in speaking with one voice to forcefully and unequivocally denounce white nationalism and white supremacy, and the use of its central contemporary conspiracy theory, the “Great Replacement” theory. For your convenience, I am enclosing a draft statement for your consideration, which has been signed by every Democratic Member of this Committee.

If Committee Republicans intend to continue examining the southern border and related policies, it is imperative for *every* member of this Committee to make clear to the American people that we speak with one voice to reject dangerous conspiracy theories and racist and antisemitic ideology in our Committee’s deliberations and decision-making. I feel certain—and I fervently hope—that you agree.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

Enclosure

³ *Steve King Removed From Committee Assignments Over White Supremacy Remark*, New York Times (Jan. 14, 2019) (online at www.nytimes.com/2019/01/14/us/politics/steve-king-white-supremacy.html); U.S. House of Representatives, Roll Call No. 236 on Agreeing to H. Res. 1153, 117th Cong. (2022) (218 Yeas, 205 Nays) (H. Res. 1152 was adopted pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 1153).

⁴ Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and Committee on the Judiciary, *Oversight of the FBI and DOJ Actions in Advance of the 2016 Election*, 115th Cong. (June 19, 2019) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-115hhr31522/html/CHRG-115hhr31522.htm).

Statement Denouncing White Nationalism and White Supremacy

We, Members of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, together denounce white nationalism and white supremacy in all its forms, including the “Great Replacement” conspiracy theory. These hateful and dangerous ideologies have no place in the work of the United States Congress or our Committee.

James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

Jim Jordan
Member



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member

Mike Turner
Member



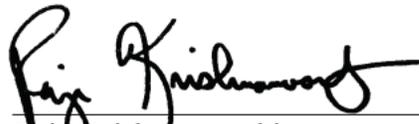
Stephen Lynch
Member

Paul Gosar
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Virginia Foxx
Member



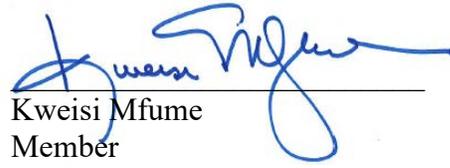
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Glenn Grothman
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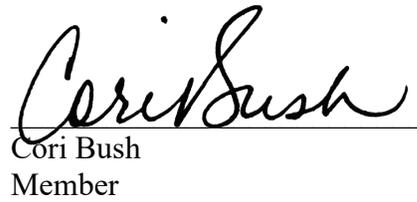
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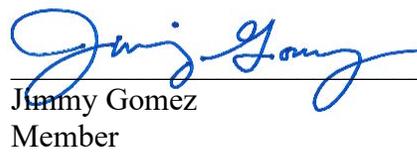
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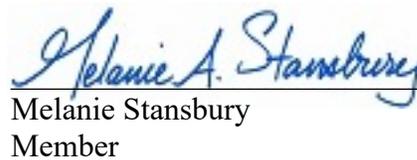
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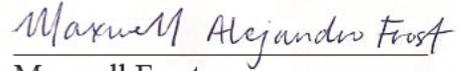
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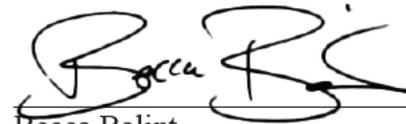
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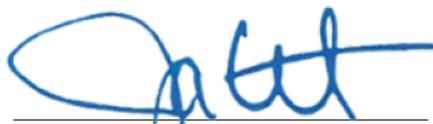
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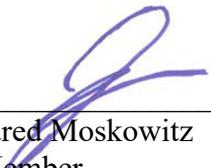
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