

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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September 19, 2023

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

Dear Chairman Comer:

I know that some Members—though by no means all—on your side of the aisle are eager to launch the GOP’s formal “impeachment inquiry” against President Biden. However, I am writing to express my profound concern about baffling and increasingly embarrassing efforts on the part of you and your staff to completely misrepresent and deny basic and easily verifiable facts about the eight-month long investigation that has already taken place. This is no way to launch a presidential impeachment drive, especially one still lacking any evidence of wrongdoing by the President.¹

Last Thursday, September 14, 2023, a *Fox News* story featured a statement from your spokesperson falsely claiming that Eric Schwerin, whom you described as a “close personal and professional associate of Robert Hunter Biden—the President’s son—and then-Vice President Biden,” had never been interviewed by Committee staff.² You have repeatedly insisted that your approach to this probe has been to “follow the evidence and deliver the transparency that the American people demand and deserve.”³ I fail to understand how that commitment to transparency can be reconciled with lying to the American people about basic elements of the investigation, including making the astonishing statement that an interview which was conducted by both Republicans and Democrats several months ago never took place.

¹ Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *Press Release: As the House Returns to Session, Ranking Member Raskin Releases Statement on the ‘Overwhelming Failure’ of Republicans’ ‘Top Priority’ Investigation* (Sept. 11, 2023) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/news/press-releases/as-the-house-returns-to-session-ranking-member-raskin-releases-statement-on-the>).

² *Oversight Dems Admit Hunter's Longtime Business Partner Handled Biden's Finances throughout VP Tenure*, *Fox News* (Sept. 14, 2023) (online at www.foxnews.com/politics/oversight-dems-admit-hunter-business-partner-handled-bidens-finances-throughout-vp-tenure).

³ E.g., *House Oversight Committee Asks White House What Is It ‘Hiding’ In Wake of Memo Calling for More Scrutiny Over Impeachment*, *The Messenger* (Sept. 13, 2023) (online at <https://themessenger.com/politics/house-oversight-committee-asks-white-house-what-is-it-hiding-wake-memo-calling-more-scrutiny-over-impeachment>).

On March 31, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., Eric Schwerin sat for a lengthy interview with Republican and Democratic Committee Staff in a conference room at the O’Neill House Office Building, together with his counsel.⁴ Mr. Schwerin spent hours answering substantive questions from Republican and Democratic staff about his relationship with Hunter Biden, as well as the history, structure, and operations of Hunter Biden’s various business entities. During the interview, Mr. Schwerin explained that, between 2009 and 2017, he performed a number of administrative and bookkeeping tasks for then-Vice President and Hunter Biden. He further stated that he had the ability to view President Biden’s bank account transactions and that he was not aware of any involvement by President Biden in the financial conduct of his family members’ businesses.⁵

In a comment to *Fox News*, your spokesperson simply denied that this interview ever took place, saying: “The Committee never interviewed Schwerin.” The spokesperson subsequently sought to qualify this bold lie by adding: “There was a meeting but it was about document production. There has never been a transcribed interview or deposition.”⁶ This spokesperson’s deceptive statement followed your own failure to acknowledge Mr. Schwerin’s March 31 interview in an August 10, 2023, *Fox News* appearance, when you stated:

There have been some initial communication between Schwerin and our office but, you know, he holds a lot of answers to our questions. He obviously met with the president countless times in the White House when Joe Biden was vice president, when Obama was president. He did the books for Joe Biden. He apparently had the authority to deposit checks and write checks on behalf of Joe Biden and his name is also affiliated with some of these shell companies, so Schwerin has a lot of knowledge.⁷

But all of this obfuscation and evasion mask one central fact: Mr. Schwerin appeared for an hours-long substantive interview before the Committee, answered numerous detailed questions from Republican and Democratic Committee staff, and stated unequivocally that President Biden did *not* receive any money from any business conducted by Hunter Biden.

⁴ Letter from Chairman James Comer, Committee on Oversight and Accountability, to Eric Schwerin (Feb. 8, 2023) (online https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-02-08-Letter-Schwerin_.pdf). Based on an agreement between the Committee’s Republican staff and Mr. Schwerin’s counsel, the interview was not transcribed.

⁵ Memorandum from Democratic Staff to Democratic Members of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *Chairman Comer’s Misuse and Distortion of Confidential Bank Information* (May 10, 2023) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2023.05.10%20Memo%20to%20Members%20re%20Misuse%20and%20Distortion%20of%20Confidential%20Bank%20Information%20FINAL.pdf>).

⁶ *Oversight Dems Admit Hunter’s Longtime Business Partner Handled Biden’s Finances throughout VP Tenure*, Fox News (Sept. 14, 2023) (online at www.foxnews.com/politics/oversight-dems-admit-hunter-business-partner-handled-bidens-finances-throughout-vp-tenure).

⁷ *‘He Holds A Lot of Answers’: Comer Teases Upcoming Testimony From Another Hunter Biden Business Associate*, Daily Caller (Aug. 10, 2023) (online at <https://dailycaller.com/2023/08/10/james-comer-teases-upcoming-testimony-from-another-hunter-biden-business-associate/>).

As you know, all the other voluminous evidence that the Committee has collected as part of its months-long investigation corroborates Mr. Schwerin's statements. The Committee has pored over 12,000 pages of bank records and more than 2,000 pages of suspicious activity reports made available by the Department of the Treasury, none of which show any payments to President Biden or involvement in his son's business relationships. The evidence collected by the Committee also includes the statements of Devon Archer in his transcribed interview that confirm President Biden was not involved in his son's business ventures and that he had never seen any "wire transfer to Joe Biden." Furthermore, the testimony of two Internal Revenue Service agents assigned to the Department of Justice's Hunter Biden investigation also acknowledged that they had no evidence that President Biden was involved in his son's business dealings.⁸

Chairman Comer, I urge you to honor your respectable pledge to "follow the evidence" and to be honest and transparent with the American people. After months of laborious investigation by this Committee, which followed previous dogged and meticulous efforts by Senate Republicans in 2020, the evidence fails to show that President Biden received a dime from any business conducted by Hunter Biden. Misrepresenting the investigative record by falsely and brazenly denying that a witness has appeared before the Committee will not change the facts. It is also a really bad way to start the first week of the new "impeachment inquiry." Please correct the record at your soonest convenience.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

⁸ Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *Press Release: As the House Returns to Session, Ranking Member Raskin Releases Statement on the 'Overwhelming Failure' of Republicans' 'Top Priority' Investigation* (Sept. 11, 2023) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/news/press-releases/as-the-house-returns-to-session-ranking-member-raskin-releases-statement-on-the>); Memorandum from Democratic Staff to Democratic Members of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *Chairman Comer's Misuse and Distortion of Confidential Bank Information* (May 10, 2023) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2023.05.10%20Memo%20to%20Members%20re%20Misuse%20and%20Distortion%20of%20Confidential%20Bank%20Information%20FINAL.pdf>); Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *Transcribed Interview of Devon Archer at 135* (July 31, 2023) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Devon-Archer-Transcript.pdf>); Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *Hearing with IRS Whistleblowers About the Biden Criminal Investigation* (July 19, 2023) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/hearing-with-irs-whistleblowers-about-the-biden-criminal-investigation/>).