

Statement of Ranking Member Jamie Raskin
Deposition of R. Hunter Biden
December 13, 2023

Once again, my Republican colleagues omit key facts and paint a distorted picture of what has happened, all in order to falsely claim Hunter Biden has refused to appear today.

For the past ten months, it is Chairman Comer who has repeatedly refused offers from Hunter Biden and his attorney to meet with the Chairman, his staff, and the Members of the Committee to answer their questions.

I would like to introduce, as [Exhibit A](#), the February 9, 2023, letter from Mr. Biden's lawyer to Chairman Comer. This response came just one day after Chairman Comer's February 8, 2023, letter, which was previously introduced, to Hunter Biden requesting "documents and communications related to our investigation of President Biden's involvement in your financial conduct."

In this February 9, 2023, letter Mr. Biden's lawyer offered Chairman Comer to "sit with you and your staff, including the ranking member and his staff, to see whether Mr. Biden has information that may inform some legitimate legislative purpose and be helpful to the Committee."

Chairman Comer never responded to this letter.

Seven months later, on September 13, 2023, Mr. Biden's lawyer, again, wrote to Chairman Comer. I would like to introduce this letter as [Exhibit B](#). This letter came after a *Newsmax* interview in which Chairman Comer incorrectly claimed he "never got a response back" to his February 8 letter. In his September 13 letter, Mr. Biden's attorney explained the Chairman "never responded" to his offer to sit down with the Chairman and his staff but nonetheless stated that he "remain[ed] available to have the discussion."

Despite failing to accept this plain offer from Hunter Biden's attorney, two months later, on November 8, 2023, Chairman Comer and Chairman Jordan issued subpoenas to Mr. Biden, requiring his appearance for a deposition on December 13, 2023, at 9:30 AM in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building. In the cover letter accompanying the subpoenas, which was previously introduced, Chairmen Comer and Jordan noted: "Given your client's willingness to address this investigation publicly up to this point, we would expect him to be willing to testify before Congress."

The December 13 letter was not the only time Chairman Comer urged Mr. Biden to appear at a public Committee hearing. For example:

- On September 13, 2023 on [Newsmax](#), Chairman Comer stated: "Hunter Biden is more than welcome to come *in front of the committee*. If he wants to clear his good name—if he wants to come and say, you know, these weren't 20 shell companies, they actually did something—he's invited today. We will drop everything."

(emphasis added)

- On October 31, 2023 on the podcast [The Benny Johnson Show](#), Chairman Comer stated: “We have mountains of evidence and now we’re ready to bring ‘em in. We’re, we’re in the downhill phase of this investigation now because we have so many documents and, and we can bring these people in for depositions or committee hearings, whichever they choose, and we can ask these questions with evidence.” (emphasis added)

On November 28, 2023. Mr. Biden’s lawyer responded to Chairman Comer, in a letter I would like to introduce as [Exhibit C](#). In this letter, through his counsel, Hunter Biden offered to appear at a public hearing, under oath, to answer the Committee’s questions on December 13. The letter emphasized the importance of having a public proceeding that “would prevent selective leaks, manipulated transcripts, doctored exhibits, or one-sided press statements,” especially in light of Chairman Comer’s repeated past use of “closed-door sessions to manipulate, even distort the facts and misinform the public.”

On December 1, 2023, in a letter that has been previously introduced, Chairman Comer and Chairman Jordan rejected Mr. Biden’s offer, insisting that he sit for a closed-door deposition—not a public hearing—on December 13.

On December 6, 2023, Mr. Biden’s lawyer, again responded to Chairman Comer. I would like to introduce this letter as [Exhibit D](#). In this letter, Hunter Biden, through his counsel, reiterated his offer “to appear at a hearing on the December 13, 2023 date you have reserved” or another date in December “to answer *any* question pertinent and relevant to the subject matter stated in your November 8, 2023 letter.” (emphasis added). As the letter recorded, Mr. Biden’s specific offer was informed by the Committee’s repeated use of “closed-door sessions to manipulate, even distort, the facts and misinform the American public—a hearing would ensure transparency and truth in these proceedings.”

That same day, December 6, 2023, in a letter that has been previously introduced, Chairmen Comer and Jordan responded threatening to “initiate contempt of Congress proceedings” unless Mr. Biden appeared for a closed-door deposition.

And that brings us to today. Hunter Biden has agreed to the Chairs’ demands that he appear before the Committee to answer any and all relevant questions under oath. Yet Chairmen Comer and Jordan will not take yes for an answer and are instead obstructing their own investigation by preventing Hunter Biden from appearing before the Committee and the American people because they know the truth and the facts will only serve to further expose this embarrassing impeachment inquiry for the sham that it is.

Although we are in the Committee Room today—Room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building—it is not the room noted on Mr. Biden’s subpoena or even on the notice for today’s deposition. Those both show this deposition is to take place in Republican office space—Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building—behind closed doors. That is what Chairman

Comer and Chairman Jordan have insisted upon: a deposition taken in secret, away from public transparency and scrutiny.

The Oversight Committee has conducted 16 transcribed interviews this Congress. Despite my repeated demands, Chairman Comer has released only 2 transcripts publicly. This means in fourteen cases the witnesses have been subjected to the utterly partisan and twisted leaks and distortions orchestrated by the Majority.

The Judiciary Committee has conducted many more interviews and depositions, including of:

- Special Counsel Weiss;
- The United States Attorneys for the District of Columbia and the Central District of California;
- The former United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania;
- The Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Criminal Matters at the Department of Justice, Tax Division; and
- Two current supervisory FBI agents.

None of those transcripts has been publicly released.

And we all know why these transcripts don't get released. The facts and the evidence undermine and debunk my Republican colleagues' claims at every turn. And so, rather than release the transcripts, they hide them from the American public so that they can distort and mischaracterize the witnesses' statements.

I would like to introduce, as Exhibits E and F, two articles by independent fact checkers that show that when Chairman Comer released the transcript of the interview of Devon Archer, Hunter Biden's former business partner—one of only two transcripts he has released—his false statements about Mr. Archer's testimony were suddenly plain for all to see.

The first, Exhibit E, is an August 14, 2023, piece by the independent fact-checking organization FactCheck.org entitled "[Republicans Oversell Archer's Testimony About Hunter and Joe Biden](#)." The article notes, quote:

But contrary to what some Republicans claimed, Archer said Joe Biden never discussed any business on those calls, and more often than not did not even know to whom he was speaking. Archer said he had no knowledge that Hunter Biden ever influenced his father to change any policies to further his son's businesses.

It goes on to highlight Chairman Comer's acrobatic mischaracterizations, quote:

Republican Rep. James Comer, chairman of the oversight committee, has accused Joe Biden of taking a bribe from a Ukrainian executive and said after Archer's testimony that the bribery allegation is "more credible" — though Archer said he did not know anything about such a bribe.

The second, Exhibit F, is an August 4, 2023, by another independent fact-checking organization, Politifact, entitled “[Transcript of Devon Archer testimony doesn’t back key claims about Joe and Hunter Biden](#).” It lays out further mischaracterizations and untruths by Chairman Comer and other Republican Members that were brought to light when independent journalists and the American public were finally able to see the full transcript of the interview.

Yesterday, the Rules Committee voted down [amendments](#) proposed by Democratic Members that would have required that this Committee, as part of the impeachment inquiry, commit to being “open and transparent” and commit to holding public hearings. Republicans voted those amendments down. Again, their motivation is obvious. Republicans want to conduct this inquiry behind closed doors so they can distort the statements of witnesses and advance demonstrably false claims about President Biden and his family.

Hunter Biden has attempted to comply with the Committees’ subpoenas. He has offered to come and answer all the Committee Members’ questions under oath at the date and time required by the subpoena in front of the glare of the television lights and the eyes of the world.

Chairmen Comer and Jordan have denied him the ability to testify because they are not interested in giving the people the whole truth and nothing but the truth, but rather in leaking distorted half-truths and quarter-truths.

Today’s proceeding is one more embarrassing waste of legislative time and taxpayer money by a party that tried illegally to block Joe Biden’s presidency in January 2021 and now tries to remove him from the presidency for no known criminal or constitutional offense and no evidence of wrongdoing.

I don’t blame Chairmen Comer and Jordan for not letting Hunter Biden come testify in public. It would only lead to an even greater exposure of this fraud and an even greater humiliation of those perpetrating it.