



**NEW REPORT**

# **All Hat, No Cattle — A Timeline of Comer's Impeachment Hype**

*April 2024*

**CONGRESSIONAL  
INTEGRITY**   
PROJECT



## REPORT: All Hat, No Cattle – A Timeline of Comer’s Impeachment Hype

*Oversight Chair James Comer (KY-01) and his MAGA colleagues have wasted nearly a year and a half pushing a baseless, partisan impeachment inquiry. Comer built his investigation on outright lies, misrepresentations, and evidence-free claims, doing everything in his power to hype his baseless impeachment probe. He has not found a single shred of evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden – let alone anything that would amount to an impeachable offense. At this point, Comer hasn’t even said what impeachable offense he is accusing President Biden of committing.*

*Last week Comer promised that new information would be coming “[very soon](#).” Everyone already knows that this is just the latest instance of Comer over-promising and under-delivering. Even right-wing media and his MAGA colleagues aren’t buying it anymore. **Over a year later, he has absolutely nothing to show for his investigation. With his latest “coming soon,” he’s set himself up for failure – all hat, no cattle once again.***

*TIMELINE: James Comer Is All Hat, No Cattle.*

*April 2024*

**Comer Promised New Information About What Exactly He’s Accusing President Biden Of Would Be Coming “Very Soon” After “Losing His Shit” During A Committee Hearing.** On Apr. 17, Comer presided over a committee hearing focused on rising geopolitical tensions with China. But instead of staying on-topic, the hearing devolved into a shouting match about Comer’s failing impeachment probe. One Oversight committee member even [tweeted](#) that Comer was “losing his shit” during the exchange. After a colleague asked Comer, “What is the crime? Tell America right now,” Comer simply [responded](#), “You’re about to find out very soon.”

*March 2024*

**Comer Promised A New Hearing Featuring Recycled, Fringe Witnesses Would “Iron Out” His Dying Impeachment Probe. It Was Over Before It Started.** On Mar. 20, House Oversight Republicans held an impeachment stunt hearing featuring a [convicted felon](#) appearing virtually from prison and a [Trump-aligned MAGA insider](#). Before the hearing, the [stalled](#) impeachment inquiry was [already](#) in a [death spiral](#), with MAGA Speaker Mike Johnson [refusing](#) to give clear answers on his willingness to impeach the president, and even members of the far-right Freedom Caucus [expressing doubts](#). But **Comer hyped his**

**investigation as a “huge success” and said the House GOP “actually need[ed]” another public hearing in order to simply “iron out the discrepancies.” Both witnesses’ past testimonies were filled with lies, contradictions, and Russian disinformation, and unsurprisingly, the two witnesses utterly failed to produce any evidence implicating President Biden.** Right-wing media was unmoved by the partisan stunt, with a Newsmax host [commenting](#), “It kind of seems like you’re chasing your tail at this point,” and a Fox News host [admitting](#), “It just feels like they keep doing the same hearing over and over again.” After the hearing, Comer [told](#) right-wing audiences, “Nobody wants to wrap this up more than I do. I’m ready to try to begin to close this investigation.”

**Comer Promised His Key Source, Alexander Smirnov, Was Credible. Then the Source Was Exposed For Being Paid By Trump Business Associates To Spread Disinformation.** Throughout Comer’s baseless impeachment probe, his core allegations have centered around an FBI form FD-1023 dating back to 2020 that documented a key informant’s secondhand account of a conversation between officials at Ukrainian energy company Burisma. Republicans spent nearly a year promoting the informant’s account as their key source of evidence supposedly implicating President Biden in a so-called bribery scheme. In mid-March, new reporting [revealed](#) that the informant, Alexander Smirnov, received over half a million dollars from a U.S. firm tied to Trump’s business associates during the same year he began feeding the FBI lies about the Biden family. Journalists also found that serious doubts about Smirnov credibility had been [raised](#) nearly a decade ago, after Smirnov was accused of lying in an earlier criminal case – his credibility issues may have even led to a sharp reduction in sentencing recommendations by federal prosecutors.

- **Smirnov’s Allegations Have Been Central To Comer’s Impeachment Probe.** As independent fact-checkers [concluded](#), “Smirnov’s allegations that Biden accepted a \$5 million bribe while vice president were a key element of Republicans’ Biden investigation.” Comer hyped Smirnov’s lies and boosted his credibility time and again: **Comer spent nearly a year praising Smirnov as one of the FBI’s “most respected,” “most effective,” “most credible,” “most trusted, highest paid,” informants.**

*February 2024*

**Comer’s Key Source, Alexander Smirnov, Was Arrested For Lying About President Biden and Exposed For Ties To Russian Intelligence.** On Feb. 15, a federal court [unsealed](#) a two-count indictment against Comer’s key informant Alexander Smirnov, charging him with making false statements accusing President Biden and his son Hunter of corruption and bribery and **exposing the debunked, criminal lie at the center of Comer’s baseless impeachment inquiry.** Just days later, Smirnov was also [exposed](#) for meeting with and being fed information by Russian intelligence officials.

- **Comer Tried To Salvage His Ruined Impeachment Probe By Gaslighting Everyone About His Claims.** Even though he swore up and down that Smirnov was credible, Comer started [scrambling](#) to sweep it all under the rug as soon as Smirnov’s

indictment went public and his Russian ties were exposed, telling reporters, “[he wasn't an important part of this investigation because I didn't even know who he was,](#)” and [deleting references](#) to the allegations in a letter to an upcoming witness.

**Depositions With Six Biden Family Members and Business Associates Exposed Nothing But Lies and Lack of Evidence.** In February 2024, House Republicans interviewed six witnesses, including President Biden’s son [Hunter](#), his brother [James Biden](#), [convicted felon](#) Jason Galanis, [foreign businesswoman](#) Karen Tramontano, Hunter’s ex-associate with [close ties to Trump](#) Tony Bobulinski, and James’ former [business associate](#) Joseph “Joey” Langston – none of whom provided evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden. As the month began Comer [boasted](#) “I’m getting everything I wanted,” and [said](#), “I think Tony Bobulinski has those answers. And we’re very excited about his interview this week.” Yet Bobulinski [did not provide any evidence](#) that President Biden was [involved](#) in his family’s business dealings or proof of any wrongdoing. During his testimony, Bobulinski launched into an unhinged rant, [accusing](#) six FBI agents who interviewed him in 2020, four partners in his failed business venture, reporters at the Wall Street Journal Street Journal, Cassidy Hutchison, and former Hunter Biden business associate Rob Walker of lying – [contradicting](#) his own attorney, who said that Bobulinski did not accuse the FBI of lying.

*January 2024*

**January 2024: Depositions With Five Biden Family Associates and Business Contacts Revealed No Evidence.** In January, House Republicans interviewed five friends and business associates connected to the Biden family, including longtime Biden family [bookkeeper](#) Eric Schwerin, Hunter Biden’s longtime [business associates](#) Rob Walker and Mervyn Yan, Hunter’s [close friend](#) Kevin Morris, and [art dealer](#) Georges Berges. All five testified that President Biden was not involved in his family’s business affairs. **Despite Comer’s lofty claims that these interviews would turn up evidence of wrongdoing, they turned up nothing.** Instead, they exposed Comer’s penchant for spreading lies and misinformation in order to further the MAGA agenda instead of pursuing the truth. Comer [claimed](#) that evidence of corruption was in “the transcripts,” citing Rob Walker’s testimony, but, as Walker [testified](#): “To be clear, President Biden -- while in office or as a private citizen -- was never involved in any of the business activities we pursued. Any statement to the contrary is simply false.”

*December 2023*

**Comer’s Own Witness Refused His Allegations About A Loan Repayment Between James Biden and President Biden Made While Out-of-Office.** For months, Comer [overhyped](#) a loan repayment between James Biden and President Biden made [while out of elected office](#). Fact checkers [quickly debunked](#) his claims, and Comer’s efforts to overhype the transactions [drew mockery](#), with HuffPost calling the revelations a “[dud](#),” and NBC News calling out the loan earmark as a “[glaring flaw](#)” in Comer’s allegations. Even Fox News, “[largely steered clear](#) of the latest bombshell.” As one senior aide [confirmed](#): “Chairman Comer's claim that Joe Biden benefitted from Americore's payments to James Biden are squarely contradicted by the facts. While James Biden got \$600,000 from Americore, Joe Biden simply got back the money



he had loaned to his brother.” In late December 2023, Comer’s own witness further contradicted his allegations. Carol Fox, a trustee for a healthcare business known as Americore that conducted business with President Biden’s brother James, [testified](#) that she **possessed no knowledge that President Biden was directly involved in any business interactions with James Biden.** Fox refuted Comer’s [claims](#) that House Republicans had found “a \$200,000 DIRECT payment to Joe Biden,” and confirmed she had no evidence of Joe Biden being involved in any of James Biden’s business dealings, much less receiving money from Americore. She further stated that she had not seen the \$200,000 check Comer referenced and had no evidence that Joe Biden had ever received money from Americore, forcing Republicans to turn their line of questioning to mere speculation.

**Comer Made Corruption Allegations That Were Quickly Debunked After Discovering The “Laundering” Was A Series of Car Payments Made While Out of Office.** In early December 2023, Comer released a video making misleading, speculative claims regarding three payments totaling less than \$5,000. Instead of providing new evidence to support their ludicrous claims, however, Republicans pulled up three already-reported-on payments that occurred while President Biden neither held public office nor was a candidate for one. [Other records show](#) that the payments were Hunter reimbursing his father for car payments. Comer’s claims were [quickly debunked](#). The Washington Post [found](#) that Comer “has consistently oversold or misrepresented the committee’s investigative findings as he has argued to initiate impeachment proceedings,” and the Daily Beast [pointed out](#), **“House Republicans were able to parade around their latest proof of President Joe Biden’s purported corruption for all of a few hours on Monday before it was unceremoniously debunked.”**

*October 2023*

**Comer Bragged About The FBI Failing To Substantiate Smirnov’s Bribery Allegations, Blatantly Ignoring Evidence That He Was Not A Credible Source.** In late October, Comer and Grassley [hyped](#) a new revelation that the FBI’s investigation into Alexander Smirnov’s bribery allegations against Joe Biden, documented in the Form FD-1023, were investigated through forty confidential sources. **Yet even after gathering information from dozens of sources, the FBI ultimately ruled against investigating further after being unable to substantiate the claims.** Witness testimony revealed that the Trump-era FBI spent eight months exhaustively assessing the allegations detailed in the Form FD-1023, only to close the case after gathering information from [forty confidential sources](#) and finding [insufficient evidence](#) to warrant escalating the allegations to a preliminary or full investigation. Comer exposed himself for blatantly ignoring the evidence that Smirnov’s allegations were not credible from the very start.

**Three U.S. Attorneys Debunked Comer’s Lies About Special Counsel David Weiss.** Comer has long accused the Department of Justice and IRS of instigating a “[cover-up](#)” of an investigation into Hunter Biden, citing two IRS whistleblowers. Comer has maintained that “[the evidence is overwhelming](#),” and continues to baselessly claim his allegations have been “[proven through the testimony of Shapley and Ziegler](#).” But in October, House Republicans interviewed

three U.S. attorneys, including a Trump appointee, who [debunked](#) Republicans' bogus bribery allegations and testified that the DOJ was [fairly and honestly](#) prosecuting Hunter Biden. Ahead of the interview, Comer [declared](#), "We put together a pretty good case. And I think we're gonna have some exceptional questions for the Biden family to answer." **But instead of validating Comer's bogus claims, all three federal prosecutors debunked them. The Trump-appointed prosecutor even said he had no reason to doubt that Mr. Weiss is "fairly and honestly prosecuting the case."**

**A Trump-Era Investigator Testifying Before Oversight Republicans Admitted That He Failed To Assess The Credibility of Comer's Key Source, Alexander Smirnov.** In October 2023, House Republicans made yet another attempt to validate their already-debunked allegations about the FBI form FD-1023 by calling on U.S. attorney Scott Brady, a Trump-era investigator who spent eight months exhaustively assessing the allegations detailed in the form FD-1023 only to close the case after finding [insufficient evidence](#) to warrant escalating the allegations to a preliminary or full investigation. Despite echoing Comer's baseless claims about the form during testimony, **Brady freely admitted that he failed to assess the credibility of the source, and failed to learn that Giuliani's team had interviewed Zlochevsky at all.**

*September 2023*

**Comer Promised "New Evidence." His First Impeachment Inquiry Hearing Was Such An Utter Failure That He Didn't Want To Hold Any Further Hearings.** Comer's long-promised inaugural impeachment hearing was a complete and utter failure, a ["disappointment before it started"](#) as the country reeled toward a GOP government shutdown. Ahead of the hearing, Comer [promised](#), "I think you'll see over the next 48 hours, we're gonna release some new evidence of wrongdoing by the Biden family," and boasted that the first impeachment hearing would focus on the ["mountains of evidence."](#) Instead, **two of Republicans' three witnesses directly testified that there is no evidence to support impeachment.** The third was [fact-checked](#) for misrepresenting the name "Biden" in her oral testimony, referring only to Hunter Biden instead of President Biden in her commentary entitled, "You'd Go To Prison For What Biden Did." During questioning, all three witnesses testified that they [did not come to present any first-hand witness accounts](#) of crimes committed by President Biden. As a fourth witness at the hearing [testified](#), "the problem is that the dots are not connected...there have been lots of assumptions, lots of accusations, but not evidence. [...] **If that's what exists as a basis for this inquiry, it is not sufficient.**" The hearing was near-universally criticized. Members of Comer's own caucus, ranging from MAGA darling [Lauren Boebert](#) (R-CO), admonished his antics at the hearing, as did longtime impeachment skeptic [Ken Buck](#) (R-CO), [Republican staffers](#), and even a [former Trump administration official](#). After the hearing, Comer himself even admitted that it went so poorly that he [didn't want to hold any more hearings](#).

**At Least Six Criminal Investigators Interviewed By House Republicans Have Debunked Comer's Allegations of A "Cover-Up."** Comer has long accused the



Department of Justice and IRS of instigating a “[cover-up](#)” of an investigation into Hunter Biden, citing two so-called whistleblowers. But in September 2023, at least [six federal criminal investigators](#) who have testified to House Republicans have rejected the GOP whistleblower’s allegations against the Biden administration to date, including an unnamed FBI agent, three FBI investigators, and two IRS criminal investigators. One of the witnesses, who also served as Shapley’s supervisor, [testified](#) that he recommended removing Shapley from the Hunter Biden probe “to protect the integrity of the investigation” because he made “unsubstantiated allegations.” **All six officials testified that Shapley’s claims were “false and misleading”** and confirmed that did not recall hearing US Attorney David Weiss ever say that he lacked the authority to decide whether to bring charges against the president’s son, or that Weiss said he had been denied a request for special counsel status.

**Comer Claimed Joe Biden’s Civilian Income “Didn’t Add Up.” Fact Checkers Disagreed, Citing Public Tax Returns.** Comer has [long suggested](#) that the Biden family used 21 so-called shell companies to launder money, claiming that they served no legitimate business function. But, as Washington Post fact-checkers [reported](#), “that claim is undercut by the list of 21 companies that appear in the second staff memo. **Virtually all of the companies (many of which now are defunct) had legitimate business interests.** During a Fox News interview, Comer [claimed](#) that if debunked bribery allegations are true, Joe Biden supposedly funneled \$10 million through an “LLC that he supposedly use to receive speaking fees and to sell his book, while the speaking fees in his book don't add up to what the total was that he disclosed on his taxes.” Back in 2020, however, USA Today **fact-checkers found that Biden’s income after serving as Vice President, “gained through public speaking events and book deals, is traceable and not uncommon for someone in Biden’s position. Biden has made public his tax returns from the past 22 years, leaving little room for speculation.”** Joe Biden also was not in office beyond January 2017. His household received [less than \\$800,000](#) in flow-through income from the LLC in question, and leaving LLC income uncategorized in personal tax returns is fairly standard. Even far-right Breitbart News commentators [noted](#), “It is apparently common for personal tax returns to not list line item income of S Corporations entities, according to Jerry Allison, a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) of Allison Financial Services who practiced accounting for more than 30 years.” Further, Comer failed to produce direct evidence linking the supposed bribery money to the LLC. As Comer himself [admitted](#) during the interview, “we’ve pretty much gotten just about all the bank records from the shell companies.”

**Comer Promised “Pretty Damning Evidence” From Emails Dating Back To Joe Biden’s Vice Presidency. The Emails Revealed Absolutely Nothing.** Comer has made emails from Joe Biden’s vice presidency a [key target](#) of his investigation, promising “[pretty damning evidence](#).” Last week, however, when the National Archives briefed House Oversight Republicans, the first batch of emails [revealed](#) merely “Biden family scheduling; a humorous exchange about Biden’s status as a ‘new Georgian sex symbol’; and praise from the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine for Joe Biden’s other son, Beau, who has since died.” As Politico [noted](#), “Yet **the emails are another example of the House GOP failing to turn up evidence they’ve assured the public exists and that will implicate Biden in some form of corruption that rises to an impeachable offense.**” The Washington Post similarly

[reported](#), “...Thursday’s episode provided the latest example of documents and testimony that House Republicans chased down only to discover they did not substantiate allegations that Biden benefited from Hunter’s business dealings or used his office to assist them.”

**Comer Claimed He Wouldn’t Chase Right-Wing Conspiracy Theories. Then He Spent His Time Spewing Conspiracy Theories On Fox News Instead of Funding The Government.** In August 2022, Comer [told](#) Politico reporters, “I’m not going to be chasing some of these right-wing blogs and some of their conspiracy theories.” Now, Comer is a frequent face on right-wing media blogs like [Newsmax](#) and [One America News Network](#) and has openly embraced conspiracy theories ranging from [Hunter Biden](#) to the ‘[Deep State](#)’ and even former hostage [Brittney Griner](#). While fellow House Republicans [tried \(and failed\) to initiate debate](#) on spending bills to fund the government ahead of an impending September deadline, Comer [missed](#) a key vote to fund the government to spew lies on Fox News. Instead of addressing the top issues facing his constituents, Comer spends his time furthering conspiracy theories and even [retweeted QAnon content](#).

**Comer Voiced An Outlandish Conspiracy Theory That U.S. Support For the War In Ukraine Was Rooted In Corruption and Blackmail – Then A Former Ukrainian President Refuted The Allegations On Fox News.** Throughout early 2023, Comer [spread a conspiracy theory](#) about ongoing U.S. support for Ukraine throughout the Russian invasion, suggesting that the Biden administration was “sending Ukraine a blank check” because the President of Ukraine “does, in fact, know about wrongdoing in Ukraine by Joe Biden...it’s a real possibility.” This outlandish claim was based on Comer’s [past statements](#) that then-Vice President Biden’s efforts to fire a corrupt Ukrainian prosecutor back in 2015 were only done to boost his son’s business interests in the country. But in September, former Ukrainian Petro Poroshenko himself [refuted](#) Comer’s allegations during a Fox News interview, and [condemned the conspiracy theory as false, calling the corrupt prosecutor a “completely crazy person,” and said, “there’s something wrong with him.”](#) In addition to Poroshenko’s interview, [numerous fact checkers](#) have found no evidence to support Comer’s claims, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee [found](#) that [official U.S. policy supported removing Shokin](#) at the time – as did [many European officials](#), [Republicans in Congress](#) at the time, and international anti-corruptions organizations.

**Comer Claimed That The Office of the Vice President Supposedly Colluded With Hunter Biden, Then His Scheme Backfired When The Actual Evidence Was Revealed.** In September 2023, Comer and his MAGA colleagues claimed that the Office of the Vice President colluded with Hunter Biden’s business partner on media responses, and [sent a letter](#) to the National Archives demanding documents related to media outrage. Contrary to Comer’s claims that Hunter Biden’s business partners wanted to be seen as having the support of the White House, however, the key email in question included a statement [explicitly stating](#) that the Vice President “does not endorse any particular company and has no involvement with this company.” Comer then took to right-wing media to claim that the National Archives was “[obstructing](#)” oversight. During a radio interview with Republican billionaire John Catsimatidis, Comer [claimed](#) that “the National Archives is preventing us from having...specific Biden correspondence.” Comer’s Democratic colleagues quickly disproved this, however, revealing that



**the National Archivist sent Comer and Oversight Republicans a letter acknowledging the request and outlining the steps required by law to fulfill it.**

**Comer Claimed That Joe Biden Used An Email Pseudonym As “Code” During His Vice Presidency. Fact Checkers Quickly Debunked The Outlandish Claim.** In summer 2023, Comer pushed a false narrative that a Ukrainian prosecutor was removed at then-Vice President Biden’s behest as a favor to Hunter Biden, and [claimed](#) that the former VP used an email pseudonym to send a secret message to his son about how he was going to tell the Ukrainian president to fire the prosecutor in question. But as Washington Post fact-checkers [concluded](#), “As for the use of a pseudonym, it’s no surprise Biden would have had one, as it was disclosed during the Obama presidency that senior officials had such accounts. [...] Comer has a tendency to mess up details or lose nuance when he shows up on television, but he really shoots himself in the foot here. **He claims that Biden was sending a secret message to his son about how he was going to tell the Ukrainian president to fire the prosecutor — but the email was sent two months after the firing.** Skeptics may doubt whether Hunter Biden was copied on the email for family matters, but it’s certainly not because of the nefarious purpose suggested by Comer.”

*August 2023*

**Comer Published Another Bank Memo Producing “Less Than A Phantom” of Evidence To Support His Accusations.** In early August 2023, Comer released a new memo “Third Bank Records Memorandum from the Oversight Committee’s Investigation into the Biden Family’s Influence Peddling and Business Schemes,” attacking the President for supposedly receiving bribes from foreign countries. Comer hyped the memo as concrete evidence of corruption, [saying](#), “all the pieces are there.” **Unfortunately for Comer, the memo was a belly-flop with no evidence and no new information.** As POLITICO [reported](#): “But the memo, the third Comer has released so far this year, also doesn’t show a direct payment to Joe Biden.” A Washington Post [analysis](#) also summarized Comer’s fishing expedition after the latest memo: “After three months, a period that clearly included more assessments of income received by Hunter Biden (though a lot of the \$20 million was already reported), there’s not a whiff of the alleged \$5 million paid to Joe Biden by Zlochevsky. It’s less than a phantom.” The New Republic [fact-checked](#) the timeline of alleged corruption and found it to be “riddled with errors:” “they have yet to produce any actual evidence of their claims, and the latest attempt to make their case is no better. Instead, it simply shows their desperation to discredit the president.”

*July 2023*

**Comer Hyped A Supposed Star Witness Whose Testimony Failed To Prove That President Biden Did Anything Wrong.** In late July 2023, the day before Trump was indicted for a third time on charges related to the January 6th insurrection at the U.S. Capitol in 2021, a business associate of Hunter Biden appeared before the Oversight Committee to testify at the invitation of Comer. For [weeks in advance](#), Comer hyped the upcoming interview as [bombshell testimony](#) and declared the testimony [evidence of a quid pro quo](#). But Archer’s

testimony [failed to produce a shred of evidence](#) of a single conflict of interest of President Biden ever doing anything in connection or in relation to Hunter Biden's business ventures. Comer also hyped a portion of testimony by Hunter Biden's business associate Devon Archer suggesting that Joe Biden supposedly [joined](#) Hunter on speakerphone while speaking with business associates up to 20 times. The reality, however, was that Archer's testimony referred to approximately 20 instances [over the span of a decade](#) in which Hunter indicated Joe Biden was merely present; Archer did not testify that President Biden was directly involved in business discussions beyond "the brand" – only that he held casual conversations about "the weather" and "fishing."

- **Comer Lied About Skipping The So-Called Bombshell Testimony That Contradicted His Unsubstantiated Allegations About President Biden.** Comer himself could not be bothered to show up for Archer's testimony despite [hyping](#) the upcoming interview for [weeks in advance](#), Comer hyped the upcoming interview as bombshell testimony. Yet even Oversight committee staffers were [unwilling to cover](#) for Comer's lies, refusing to say if Comer phoned-in and saying he was in "constant contact" with staff during the interview. One GOP source even [said](#), "It was like following a general into battle, but the general decided to stay home instead of fight."

**Comer's IRS Whistleblowers Contradicted His Claims, Testifying That There's No Evidence President Biden Interfered In IRS/DOJ Investigations Into Hunter Biden.** Comer has long accused the Department of Justice and IRS of instigating a "[cover-up](#)" of an investigation into Hunter Biden, citing two so-called whistleblowers. He called their testimony "[pivotal](#)," and "[evidence of a cover-up](#)." Despite their lofty claims, however, Comer's two IRS whistleblowers themselves [testified](#), under oath, that neither President Biden nor his Attorney General interfered in the Internal Revenue Service and Department of Justice's investigation into Hunter Biden.

**Comer Claimed that the Biden Family Took More than \$20 Million from Foreign Nations – Then Refused To Show His Math.** For months, Comer claimed that President Biden and his family took in \$20 million from foreign sources. In June 2023, Comer took to Fox News at least twice to claim that the number would "[exceed \\$20 million](#)" or "[top out at \\$20 million plus](#)." In July 2023, he claimed on [Ted Cruz's podcast](#), "I feel like we'll be able to hit the \$25 million mark [from foreign nations to Joe Biden and family]." In August 2023, he doubled down on those allegations, claiming directly that they "recieve[d] over \$20 million [illegally from foreign nationals](#)" and "[our enemies](#) around the world." **But the evidence shows otherwise: according to the Washington Post, "A close reading of the memos, however, finds that only about \$7 million can be directly attributed to Biden family members, mostly Hunter, while the rest went to 'associates,' according to the memos."**

**Comer And Grassley Publicly Released The Document Describing Alexander Smirnov's False Allegations, Exposing Comer's Key Source As An Uncorroborated Tip Previously Investigated & Rebutted.** In July, Comer and GOP Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) obtained and publicly released a redacted version of the FBI form FD-1023 documenting Alexander Smirnov's false allegations against President Biden and his family. By releasing it,



Comer [revealed](#) that it was just an uncorroborated FBI tip, not concrete evidence of a crime. Before publishing the document, Comer [declared](#): “every day, this bribery scandal becomes more credible.” **Worse still, the owner of Ukrainian energy firm Burisma, had already rebutted the uncorroborated bribery allegations back in 2019:** “As part of the impeachment inquiry against then-President Trump, Congress learned that Mr. Zlochevsky, the Ukrainian oligarch and the owner of Burisma, whom Republican Committee Members appear to have identified as the source of the allegations memorialized in the form FD-1023, squarely rebutted these allegations in 2019.” In 2019, Rudy Giuliani and his associate Lev Parnas interviewed Burisma owner Mykola Zlochevsky. Not only did Zlochevsky flatly deny the allegations reported in the form FD-1023, but Giuliani [demanded](#) the interview transcript be concealed, telling Parnas: “What is this shit? This is bullshit. Make sure nobody sees this. Bury this.”

*June 2023*

**Comer Hyped So-Called Bribery Tapes Connected To A FBI Form FD-1023 Documenting Alexander Smirnov’s Allegations – Despite Not Knowing If They Were “Legit or Not.”** In June 2023, Grassley and Comer began hyping the potential existence of [audio tapes](#), alleged by Alexander Smirnov, supposedly proving President Biden accepted a \$5 million bribe from a Ukrainian energy company during the Obama administration. Yet despite hyping these claims for weeks on end, **Comer later admitted, “we don’t know if they are legit or not” during a Newsmax interview just five days later.**

**Comer Repeatedly Claimed That Alexander Smirnov’s Bribery Allegations Had Nothing To Do With Trump Attorney Rudy Giuliani. Then Giuliani Said It Was All Him.** In [interview](#) after [interview](#) with friendly right-wing hosts, Comer claimed that Alexander Smirnov’s bribery allegations against President Biden, documented in the FBI form FD-1023 had [nothing to do with](#) disgraced Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani. The only problem with Comer’s claims? They were not true. Giuliani himself decided to take credit for first raising the allegations in June 2023. **Giuliani said during several Newsmax TV appearances that he alerted the Justice Department to the allegations:** “The document they’re talking about, the \$10 million bribe from Mykola Zlochevsky, it really is the tip of the iceberg,” Giuliani said on Newsmax on June 10. “That document was discovered because it was at least one FBI agent that went out and tried to corroborate what I gave them.”

*May 2023*

**Comer Published A Bank Memo Outlandishly Accusing President Biden Business Ties Without Any Facts or Evidence.** In May 2023, Comer and Oversight Republicans published their [second bank memo](#) attacking the President on supposed foreign business ties. As POLITICO [reported](#), “[Oversight Republicans’ memo] also doesn’t show any way Biden’s decisions were influenced by those agreements or that he had direct knowledge of them. **And while Republicans have criticized the payments as questionable, they stopped short of calling any of the activity potentially illegal.**” Even conservative critics called out Comer’s lack of evidence backing the memo, with Fox News host Steve Doocy [pushing back](#)

during an interview with Comer: “That's just your suggestion. You don't actually have any facts to that point. You've got some circumstantial evidence. And the other thing is, of all those names, the one person who didn't profit is that — there's no evidence that Joe Biden did anything illegally.”

- **“Judgement Day:” Comer Claimed He Had “Uncovered More Than, I Think, Any Congressional Committees Ever Uncovered,” Promising The Memo Would “Make Watergate Look Like Jaywalking.”** In the days ahead of the memo’s release, Comer hyped the document as a damning exposé. In no uncertain terms, Comer [declared](#) that it would prove his allegations “without a shadow of a doubt,” [stating](#), “I haven't had subpoena power 100 days, and we've uncovered more than, I think, any congressional committees ever uncovered.” He [claimed](#) that “it’s gonna be Judgment Day tomorrow for the White House,” and [said](#) the report would “make Watergate Watergate look like jaywalking...I think everything's on the table.”

**Comer and Grassley Subpoenaed the FBI For A Document Detailing Alexander Smirnov’s False Allegations Against President Biden, Despite His Lack of Credibility & Evidence.** In early-May, Comer and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) published an open letter to the FBI announcing [subpoenas](#) for the FBI form FD-1023 documenting Alexander Smirnov’s claims about an alleged “criminal scheme involving then-Vice President Biden and a foreign national relating to the exchange of money for policy decisions.” **Comer was immediately called out for pushing unsubstantiated allegations in the letter. In addition to the FBI, Smirnov’s allegations were reviewed and debunked by a Trump-era investigation, Burisma’s former CEO, and independent fact-checkers.**

*April 2023*

**Comer Blatantly Misrepresented Witnesses, Then Refused to Produce Evidence Substantiating His Claims.** For months, Comer talked to the press about four individuals he [claimed](#) were “whistleblowers.” **But there was a key problem with Comer’s narrative: they weren’t whistleblowers, and there were only two people.** As Ranking Member Raskin wrote to Comer in a letter obtained by [the Washington Post](#): “The two individuals your staff specifically identified as the individuals they understood to have been referenced during your March 6 Fox News interview, are not whistleblowers... your repeated statements about ‘four people’ suggest that either you have intentionally misrepresented the Committee’s investigative progress to your conservative audience or that key investigative steps have been deliberately withheld from Committee Democrats.”

*February 2023*

**In His First Oversight Hearing, Comer Pushed a “Factually Unsupported Narrative” About The ‘Twitter Files’.** After one of the GOP House Oversight Committee’s first hearings, Chairman Comer got called out for pushing “a [factually unsupported narrative](#) about the federal government secretly colluding with Twitter,” despite “no real evidence to

support this weighty and consequential claim.” During House Oversight’s first hearing, former Twitter Deputy General Counsel James Baker – one of the Republicans’ own witnesses – [told](#) the committee, “I am aware of [no unlawful collusion](#) with, or direction from, any government agency or political campaign on how Twitter should have handled the Hunter Biden laptop situation.” Even ‘Twitter Files’ author Matt Taibbi (who testified in front of a separate committee hearing in March) could not substantiate Comer’s claims: “[there is no evidence](#) – that I’ve seen – of any government involvement in the laptop story.

- **Comer Claimed The ‘Twitter Files’ Showed Evidence Of So-Called Collusion on Fox News. They Didn’t.** Shortly after Elon Musk acquired Twitter, he hand-picked a group of right-wing journalists to release a carefully-curated cache of internal documents. After some of the documents were released, Comer took to Fox News to claim that Musk’s ‘Twitter Files’ [contained “evidence”](#) that President Biden’s campaign supposedly “colluded” with Big Tech. But the evidence wasn’t there: “The unsupported claim [...], of course, is not what the selectively released company documents show.”

*Late 2022*

**During His First Press Conference, Comer Said He Had “Evidence of Federal Crimes.” His Report Failed To Name A Single Crime.** During his first press conference after Republicans won a House majority in November 2022, Comer declared: “Committee Republicans have uncovered evidence of federal crimes committed by, and to the benefit of, members of the president’s family.” But when he released a 31-page interim report, reporters noted that it [lacked evidence and declined to specify charges](#): “[the report] does not make specific allegations about the Biden family or their alleged crimes. Indeed, the report stops short of listing any of the specific crimes listed by Comer...it does, however, accuse the Biden family.”

**Fact Checkers Called Out Comer For “Need[ing] To Get His Facts Straight” On Hunter Biden Claims.** Weeks before the 2022 midterm elections, Rep. Comer made [false and unsubstantiated claims](#) about President Biden’s family on Fox News. Just days later, Comer got [called out by independent fact checkers](#) for lying to Americans about Hunter Biden. An investigative reporter wrote that Comer “needs to get his facts straight” after making numerous false and/or unsubstantiated claims about foreign business dealings.

**Comer Said He Didn’t Want To Be Seen As “Overly Political.” Then He Sourced Right-Wing Extremists To Serve As Witnesses For His Committee Hearings.** In a June 2022 [interview](#) with reporters from The Hill, Comer stated: “I want to hope that when my time is done as Chairman of the Oversight Committee, they will say, ‘He was fair, we didn’t try to do anything overtly political.’” Despite his pre-election sentiments, Comer no longer has any reservations about overtly partisan stunts, as [evidenced](#) by his choice of far-right extremists, MAGA conspiracy theorists, and election deniers to serve as witnesses.