# **Resources for Vote on Evidence-Free Impeachment Inquiry**

### FACT CHECK: House Republicans Are Pushing an Impeachment Inquiry Based On Lies

After nearly a year of Congressional investigations into President Biden and his family and

- <u>More than 37,000 pages</u> of subpoenaed bank records
- <u>More than 2,000 pages</u> of Suspicious Activity Reports reviewed
- <u>More than 20,000 pages</u> of emails regarding Hunter Biden released by the National Archives
- Interviews with Hunter Biden's business associates, President Biden's bookkeeper, and federal agents assigned to the Hunter Biden investigation
- Hundreds of pages of documents from the Hunter Biden investigation released by the House Committee on Ways and Means
- Every subpoena to the administration answered by the administration

There is zero evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden and a wide range of House Republicans, from House Freedom Caucus Member <u>Ken Buck</u> to Biden district Republicans <u>Mike Lawler</u> and <u>Don Bacon</u>, agree there is not enough evidence to move forward with impeachment.

### Debunked Republican Lie #1: President Biden Was Not Involved In Hunter Biden's Foreign Business Dealings, Contrary to Republican Claims

**<u>Claim</u>**: In a presser announcing an impeachment inquiry, Comer claimed House Republicans now have evidence, via testimony from Devon Archer, that then-Vice President Biden knew of Hunter Biden's business deals and suggested that he met and/or spoke with foreign nationals involved with his son.

**The Facts**: Archer did NOT testify that President Biden was directly involved in business discussions – only that he held casual conversations about "the weather" and "fishing." Witness testimony referred to approximately 20 instances <u>over the span of a</u> <u>decade</u> in which Hunter indicated Joe Biden was merely present.

As <u>ABC</u> reported: "Archer testified that Joe Biden's interactions with Hunter Biden's associates were 'not related to commercial business,' that Joe Biden had no involvement with Burisma, the Ukrainian oil conglomerate on whose board both Archer and Hunter Biden served; that the elder Biden never took any actions to benefit Burisma or Hunter Biden; and that Hunter Biden never asked his father to take any actions that would help his clients, according to the fully transcribed interview with the committee."

### Debunked Republican Lie #2: "The Bidens" Did Not Receive \$20 Million From Our Adversaries As Republicans Have Claimed

**<u>Claim</u>**: In a presser announcing an impeachment inquiry, Comer claimed "the Bidens received over \$20 million" from China, Romania, and other foreign entities. He also claimed the money was lauded through "20 shell companies...they are not legitimate companies," and alleged that the president's granddaughter "received a wire that had been laundered to the shell companies from Romania days after the President left Romania when he was Vice President." Republicans have also argued that Hunter Biden was compromised by Elena Baturina, the wife of a former mayor of Moscow.

**The Facts**: 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. [...] **No money has been traced to Joe Biden.**" Further, the narrative that Hunter Biden was compromised by Baturina has been undermined by years of independent reporting, including by the <u>Washington Post</u>, and <u>CNN</u>. Most recently, Devon Archer said in a transcribed interview that Hunter "was not involved" with that transaction.

In May, House Republicans released a report about several of the companies in question – but their own report <u>found no evidence of wrongdoing by President Biden</u>. Independent fact-checkers <u>further concluded</u>: "That claim is undercut by the list of 21 companies that appear in the second staff memo. <u>Virtually all of the companies</u> <u>(many of which now are defunct) had legitimate business interests</u>. Others had clearly identified business investments. Digging through the records, we find only three whose business purpose remains vague; one (Rosemont Seneca Global Risk Services, LLC) may not even be related to Hunter Biden, according to an email found in Hunter Biden's laptop. The memos do not list any payments that flowed through these three companies." In comparison, former President Trump had <u>hundreds and hundreds of shell companies</u> while in office, including one named, "China Trademark LLC."

### Debunked Republican Lie #3: Contrary to Republican Claims, Suspicious Activity Reports Are Not Evidence Of Criminality

<u>**Claim</u>**: In a presser announcing an impeachment inquiry, Comer alleged, "we found 170 major bank violations...from six major banks...alleging that the Bidens were money laundering and receiving suspicious wires from state-owned entities." Days later, McCarthy elaborated, "The Treasury Department alone has more than 150 transactions involving the Biden family and other business associates that were flagged as suspicious activity by U.S. banks."</u>

**The Facts**: Suspicious activity reports (SARs) alone do not indicate that a crime was committed. Washington Post fact-checkers <u>debunked</u> these claims as far back as October 2022, citing top financial analysts who described SARs as "well short of, 'I think a crime

has been committed," and merely "a tip" with a low threshold for filing just to be on the safe side: "Since banks are subject to enforcement action if they fail to file a SAR when they should have, but suffer no sanction if they file a useless SAR, the general presumption is to file the SAR,' the group says."

As members of the Committee have confirmed, "<u>None of the SARs reviewed</u> by Committee staff allege, refer to, or even suggest, any potential misconduct by President Biden, <u>nor do they show any involvement by President Biden</u> in Hunter Biden's financial or business relationships."

### Debunked Republican Lie #4: There Is No Evidence President Biden Received Bribes

**<u>Claim</u>:** In a presser announcing an impeachment inquiry, Comer claimed, "we also found an FBI form 1023 alleging Joe Biden took a bribe...the FBI never investigated this allegation...in the FBI 1023 [form] it said that investigators would take 10 years to figure out where these bribes went because of the various bank accounts that they wired the money through. That was written years before anyone knew the Bidens had shell companies and the Bidens were laundering money."

The Facts: As the FBI has stated, FD-1023 forms do not "validate,"

"establish...credibility," or "weigh...against other information known or developed by the FBI." Republicans have failed to produce evidence of bribery despite subpoenaing the FBI and risking the safety of confidential sources. Comer was immediately called out for pushing unsubstantiated allegations in the letter. The Associated Press <u>noted</u>, 'the lawmakers used the word 'alleged' three times in the opening paragraph of the letter and offered no evidence of the veracity of the accusations.' HuffPost reporters <u>concurred</u>: '[Republicans] acknowledged they don't know if the allegation will pan out. [...] backing the allegation despite the scarcity of details.'

When Comer and Grassley obtained the document, form FD-1023, and publicly released a redacted version in July – against the advice of intelligence officials who feared it would 'unnecessarily ris[k] the safety of a confidential source' – it ended up being an <u>uncorroborated FBI tip</u>. The confidential human source who originally reported the information to the FBI in 2020 himself <u>noted</u> it was not unusual for Ukrainian business executives "<u>to brag or show-off</u>" and that he <u>could not offer any opinion as to the</u> "<u>veracity</u>" of the bribery allegations he was relaying.

Hunter Biden's business associate Devon Archer explicitly <u>disagreed</u> with House Republicans' claims that the former Vice President was supposedly "bribed" by Zlochevsky, dismissing the allegations as mere bragging, exaggeration, and "<u>fibs</u>" that are common among Ukrainian businessmen.

Worse still, the owner of Ukrainian energy firm Burisma Mykola Zlochevsky had <u>already</u> <u>rebutted</u> 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.'"

### Debunked Republican Lie #5: President Biden Did Not Help Fire A Ukrainian Prosecutor Just To Benefit Hunter Biden

**<u>Claim</u>**: In a presser announcing an impeachment inquiry, Comer suggested that then-Vice President Biden worked to fire a corrupt Ukrainian prosecutor to benefit Hunter Biden's foreign business dealings: "We also just recently discovered an email from...the Obama State Department to Victor Shokin, the prosecutor who Joe Biden fired in Ukraine in exchange for the billion dollars, praising him for the great work that he did. But there was this narrative that Joe Biden created that Shokin was corrupt and that he needed to go over there and be fired."

**The Facts**: Comer has long pushed a <u>false narrative</u> that a Ukrainian prosecutor was removed at then-Vice President Biden's behest as a favor to Hunter Biden – but <u>numerous fact checkers</u> have rejected this claim over the years, and prominent diplomats have debunked these claims:

- Ukraine's deputy chief of mission George Kent <u>addressed the allegations</u> in 2019, testifying "What former Vice President Biden requested of former President of Ukraine [Petro] Poroshenko was the removal of a corrupt prosecutor general, Viktor Shokin, who had undermined a program of assistance that we had spent, again, U.S. taxpayer money to try to build an independent investigator unit to go after corrupt prosecutors."
- Former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko himself, who was head of state at the time, has also <u>refuted</u> Comer's allegations. He condemned the conspiracy theory on Fox News, calling the corrupt prosecutor a "completely crazy person," and said, "There's something wrong with him."
- As former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch <u>testified</u> in 2019, "Vice President Biden, the IMF, pretty much every country that is present in Ukraine all felt that Mr. Shokin as prosecutor general was not doing his job,"

### Debunked Republican Lie #6: President Biden's Family Has Not Received Special Treatment From His Administration & The Biden Administration Has Not Tried To "Sweep It All Under The Rug."

**<u>Claim</u>**: During his impeachment inquiry announcement, McCarthy claimed that "the president's family has been offered special treatment by Biden's own administration."

In his opening statement at the first impeachment inquiry hearing, Jordan claimed: "And the final step, the final step is the Biden Justice Department tries to sweep it all under the rug. They slow walk the investigation. They let the statute of limitations lapse for the most important years '14 and '15, the Burisma years when all that income was coming in."

Jordan also claimed: "And we learned yesterday in the search warrant application, the search warrant examining Hunter Biden's electronic communications, they weren't allowed to ask about Political Figure One. Political Figure Number One is the big guy, is Joe Biden."

**The Facts**: David Weiss was originally <u>appointed</u> to serve as US Attorney for Delaware by Donald Trump. Oversight Chair James Comer was <u>vocal</u> in his support for Weiss remaining US Attorney after the 2020 election. Republicans have claimed Weiss slow-walked the investigation to protect Hunter Biden, but his office's investigation into Hunter Biden began in 2018, <u>during the Trump administration</u>, and any decisions about delays leading up to the 2020 election were made by Trump administration officials who were <u>aligned</u> with the <u>widely reported</u> priorities of Trump's <u>Attorney General</u> at the time. After months of calling for David Weiss to be appointed Special Counsel, the very Republicans who were calling for it <u>criticized the move</u> once it was made.

As Fox News <u>reported</u>, the documents released by House Republicans show that orders to remove "Political Figure 1" from search warrants related to an investigation into Hunter Biden were sent in August 2020 – during the Trump administration – by <u>Bush-appointed</u> U.S. attorney Lesley Wolf. Wolf sent an email to investigators noting, "none of it is appropriate and within the scope of this warrant...Please focus on FARA evidence only. There should be nothing about Political Figure 1 in here." The Biden administration was not involved in the case in August 2020 because Joe Biden was not president at the time.

# Debunked Republican Lie #7: IRS Whistleblowers Have Not Confirmed Allegations of A Coverup

**<u>Claim</u>**: In his opening statement at the first impeachment inquiry hearing, Jordan said, "And they would have gotten away with it all – they would have gotten away with it all except for two brave whistleblowers who sat in those seats two months ago and told their story, and their story has stood up. Two brave whistleblowers and a judge in Delaware who said we're not gonna let this happen, that's why we're here today."

**The Facts**: Despite their lofty claims, these two IRS whistleblowers have been mischaracterized by House Republicans and themselves testified that neither President Biden nor his Attorney General interfered in the investigation. In July, House Republicans held a hearing during which <u>their own witnesses testified</u>, <u>under</u> <u>oath</u>, <u>that neither President Biden nor Attorney General Garland interfered</u> <u>in the Internal Revenue Service and Department of Justice's investigation</u> <u>into Hunter Biden</u>. The narrative was also debunked by the <u>witnesses interviewed</u> as part of Senate Republicans' <u>investigation in 2020</u>, and even <u>Fox News's own internal research unit</u>, known as the "Brain Room" determined these attacks to be "<u>disinformation</u>." Gordon Sondland, President Trump's Ambassador to the European Union, also <u>told</u> House investigators in 2019 that "the effort by Giuliani to investigate Burisma" was "improper" and likely "illegal."

Worse still, the whistleblowers' key allegations have been <u>debunked by at least six</u> <u>other witnesses brought in for questioning by Oversight Republicans</u> – including whistleblower Gary Shapley's supervisor at the IRS' Criminal Investigation division and the division's director of field operations, three current and former FBI officials, and a longtime bookkeeper for the Biden family. These officials have <u>testified</u> that Shapley's claims are "false and misleading" and that they "don't remember" 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. <u>Shapley's supervisor also testified he recommended</u> <u>removing him from the Hunter Biden probe "to protect the integrity of the</u> <u>investigation" because he made "unsubstantiated allegations."</u>

### Debunked Republican Lie #8: There Is No Evidence Chinese Nationals Wired Money Directly to President Biden.

<u>**Claim</u>**: In his opening statement at the first impeachment inquiry hearing, Comer claimed: "Just this week, we uncovered two additional wires sent to Hunter Biden that originated in Beijing from Chinese nationals. This happened when Joe Biden was running for President of the United States and Joe Biden's home is listed as the beneficiary address."</u>

**The Facts**: The wire transfer in question was a documented loan <u>directly deposited</u> into a bank account solely belonging to Hunter Biden – wire transfers are not delivered to physical addresses. As Washington Post fact-checkers <u>concluded</u>: "[T]he recipient address was not in any way determinative: the destination was the bank, not a house. [...] And the listed beneficiary for the recipient account, according to the documentation? Robert Hunter Biden." Some wire transfers require a listed physical address for the recipient, and at the time, <u>Hunter Biden's personal driver's license listed his</u> <u>father's Delaware address – a known fact that had been reported on for</u> <u>months before Comer's supposed bombshell revelation</u>.

### Debunked Republican Lie #9: There Is No Evidence to Support Impeaching President Biden, As Republicans' Own Witnesses Have Testified

<u>The Facts</u>: At their first impeachment inquiry hearing, Republicans' own witnesses were exposed as GOP partisans who had no evidence to support impeaching President Biden. <u>Two of Republicans' three witnesses directly testified that there is no</u> <u>evidence to support impeachment.</u> The third was <u>exposed</u> 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." Upon further questioning, all three witnesses testified that they <u>did not come to present any</u> <u>first-hand witness accounts</u> of crimes committed by President Biden.

As a fourth witness at the hearing <u>testified</u>, "the problem is that the dots are not connected. The name that's been repeated most often in this hearing is Hunter Biden, not President Biden. And the point of an impeachment inquiry is not about a president's son, it has to be about the president himself. And I don't think those dots have been 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.**"

### Debunked Republican Lie #10: Contrary to Comer's Allegations, President Biden Did Not Launder Money Through Car Payments

**<u>Claim</u>**: In mid-October 2023, while the House of Representatives spent weeks in limbo without an elected Speaker, Comer overhyped a transaction he discovered between James Biden and President Biden, <u>tweeting</u>, "We have found a \$200,000 DIRECT payment to Joe Biden."

In early December 2023, Comer released yet another video making misleading, speculative claims regarding three payments totaling less than \$5,000.

The Facts: Fact-checkers <u>quickly debunked</u> his claims, <u>Comer himself admitted</u> <u>during the pre-recorded video that he knew the check was a personal loan</u> <u>repayment from President Biden's brother. Further, the transaction in</u> <u>question was a check, earmarked for repaying a personal loan, that was</u> <u>issued in March 2018 – while Joe Biden was not holding or running for any</u> <u>public office</u>, having vacated the Vice Presidency over a year prior. The bank records show that Joe Biden had previously provided two short-term loans to his brother, who repaid both within two months. Comer's efforts to overhype the transactions <u>drew</u> <u>mockery</u>, with HuffPost calling the revelations a "dud," and NBC News calling out the loan earmark as a "<u>glaring flaw</u>" in Comer's allegations. Even Fox News, "<u>largely steered</u> <u>clear</u> of the latest bombshell."

Later revelations <u>showed</u> that the Oversight Committee discovered James Biden actually received much more than Comer originally revealed from the company Republicans claim was supposedly being used to funnel money to President Biden – \$600,000 – while James Biden only paid Joe Biden what he owed him from short term loans (\$240,000). As one senior aide <u>confirmed</u>: "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."

Meanwhile, the December video showed already-reported-on payments occurred while President Biden neither held public office nor was a candidate for one, and included three payments totaling less than \$5,000. <u>Other records show</u> that the payments were Hunter reimbursing his father for car payments.

# Republicans Admit the Bogus Impeachment of President Biden Is to Help Trump

Just this week, Rep. Troy Nehls has become the latest Republican to say the quiet part out loud and <u>admit</u> that the Republicans' evidence-free impeachment of President Biden is politically motivated. House Republicans wasted all year investigating the President and have failed to present a single shred of evidence of wrongdoing whatsoever. Instead of working on important issues like lowering costs for families, the MAGA House has only pursued this wild goose chase. The investigation is clearly at the hands of Trump and designed to harm President Biden ahead of the 2024 election and help Trump return to the White House, but don't take our word for it:

**Congressional Republicans Are Openly Admitting Their Investigations Are a Sham Revenge Tour.** Trump and his MAGA allies have made investigations into the Biden Administration, Department of Justice, and so much more their number one priority – and they are already openly admitting these investigations are designed to target political opponents and influence public opinion for the 2024 elections:

- Rep. **Troy Nehls** (R-TX) reportedly said "he wants to give Trump 'a little bit of ammo to fire back' and say Biden has also been impeached." [USA Today, <u>12/4/23</u>]
- Former House Speaker **Kevin McCarthy** (R-CA) emphasized former President Trump's polling shortly after unilaterally announcing the impeachment inquiry: "President Trump is beating Biden right now in the polls. He's stronger than he has ever been in this process." [Spectrum News NY1, <u>9/18/23</u>]
- Rep. **Matt Gaetz** (R-FL) conceded that impeachment will likely fail, demonstrating that it's just another partisan stunt: "I will concede that the votes that I have called for will likely fail -- term limits, balanced budgets, maybe even impeachment --- I am prepared for that eventuality because at least if we take votes, the American people get to see who is fighting for them." [C-SPAN, 9/12/23, VIDEO]
  - **Gaetz** admitted that the Republicans' bogus impeachment of President Biden is about politics and the 2024 election not any actual wrongdoing: "The purpose of the impeachment to me is to use the Senate as the stage, but they're not the jury. The jury is the American people... it will not result in a conviction, but the true verdict can still be rendered by the American people." [HuffPost, <u>9/6/23</u>]

- Rep. **Marjorie Taylor Greene** (R-GA) admitted that the impeachment inquiry is a nakedly political scheme to ensure Democrats "lose big" at the next presidential election: "We are going to drag Biden and everyone who covered up his crimes through the headlines day after day, month after month, and prove to the country the entire Democrat party is corrupt and can't be trusted." [The Independent (UK), <u>9/15/23</u>] [X, <u>9/14/23</u>]
  - **Greene** all but admitted that MAGA impeachment efforts are politically motivated, tweeting: "We will not win in 2024 if we do not inspire the base and many people who won't vote for Republicans because R's are not addressing the two biggest issues in the country. Impeach criminals and protect kids if you want voters to flood the polls and vote Republican." [Twitter, <u>6/21/23</u>]
- Oversight Chair **James Comer** (R-KY) has <u>suggested</u> that the "GOP is targeting Biden as retaliation for Trump impeachments."
  - In May, **Comer** told Fox News in May that his investigations were responsible for Trump's improving poll numbers against Biden: "You look at the polling, and right now Donald Trump is 7 points ahead of Joe Biden and trending upward, Joe Biden's trending downward. And I believe that the media is looking around, scratching their head, and they're realizing that the American people are keeping up with our investigation." [HuffPost, 5/22/23]
  - In October 2022, Comer told Fox News, "There are a lot of factors that are going to prevent Joe Biden from running. His age, the results of the midterm elections in two weeks. But also his son. Look, this Biden family investigation's only going to ramp up in a Republican majority." ["Fox and Friends," Fox News, 10/26/22]
- Rep. **Marjorie Taylor Greene** (R-GA) <u>tweeted</u> "Any GOP Member growing weak on this will sorely disappoint our country," linking to a story about the expected GOP push for impeaching Biden. Weeks prior, she told reporters: "There's going to be a lot of investigations, I've talked with a lot of members about this." [Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene Twitter, <u>11/2/22</u>; New York Times Magazine, <u>10/17/22</u>]
- Judiciary Chair **Jim Jordan** (R-OH): "so, all these things need to be investigated just so you have the truth, plus that will help frame up the 2024 race, when I hope and I think President Trump is going to run again and we need to make sure that he wins..." [Politico, 8/10/22]
- Senator **Ted Cruz** (R-TX) predicted House Republicans would "impeach Biden 'whether it's justified or not' because 'the Democrats weaponized impeachment' when they twice formally accused Trump of wrongdoing." [The Washington Post, <u>1/12/22</u>]

**Rolling Stone: Trump Is Calling Republicans to Ask 'How Many' Times They'll Impeach Biden.** "Donald Trump is calling his top allies in Congress to push for details on their plans for impeaching President Joe Biden and top administration officials, two sources with knowledge of the conversations tell Rolling Stone. Specifically, Trump in recent months has repeatedly asked "how many' times Republicans plan to impeach the president if they take control of the House, the sources said. He has also, the sources said, asked about what they would do to impeach certain high-ranking Biden administration officials. Trump's questions have touched on potential timelines for any potential impeachment inquiries, as well as on how much support impeachment has in the Republican conference. [...] Trump's ongoing discussions with Capitol Hill allies reveal his ongoing influence over the GOP caucus, as well as the power he'll wield if Republicans win enough seats in Tuesday's midterm elections to take over the House. But his interest in impeachment sets up a potential point of tension between him and GOP leadership in Congress, as top Republican lawmakers have reservations about the political wisdom of attempting to put Biden on trial." [Rolling Stone, <u>11/6/22</u>]

### Congressional Republicans Have Been Planning Partisan Investigations All Along

*January 2022:* Washington Post: Sen. Ted Cruz Says Republicans Are Likely To Impeach Biden If They Retake House. "Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.) predicted Republicans would move to impeach President Biden "whether it's justified or not" if they retake the House in this year's midterm elections. The White House responded Tuesday by calling on Cruz to work with Democrats toward bipartisan agreement on policy matters instead of "name-calling" and making political predictions. [...] ...the senator was asked whether he thinks there is any chance a Republican House would impeach Biden, given that Democrats had twice impeached President Donald Trump. 'Yeah, I do think there's a chance of that,' Cruz said. 'And whether it's justified or not, as we talked about when 'Verdict' launched...'" [The Washington Post, 1/4/22]

### Washington Post: Republicans Rally Around A 2022 Message: Revenge.

"Republicans, their eyes on retaking one or both chambers of Congress come November, have yet to unite behind a slate of specific policies they'll enact if they beat Democrats this year. But there is one thing a growing chorus of GOP voices is loudly promising: revenge. [...] Republicans have introduced at least six impeachment resolutions targeting Biden, some citing his withdrawal from Afghanistan, others the border, where Trump faced just one at this point in his presidency. They've predictably gone nowhere in the Democrat-controlled chamber." [The Washington Post, <u>1/12/22</u>]

**CNN: House Republicans Plot Investigative Revenge On January 6 Panel As Trump Itches For Payback.** "House Republicans are plotting revenge on the select committee investigating the January 6, 2021, insurrection, as the GOP weighs a broader effort to re-litigate some of Donald Trump's biggest election grievances if it recaptures the House majority. The former President has been itching for payback and leaning heavily on his Capitol Hill allies to defend him against a recent slew of damaging revelations about his role in the deadly attack on the US Capitol. Now, as Republicans search for ways to undermine those findings, their party has started to lay the groundwork to investigate the select committee itself. Republicans have already asked the January 6 panel to preserve a broad range of documents in its possession – a signal they're preparing to force those records to be turned over should they wield powerful committee gavels next year." [CNN, 7/15/22]

*August 2022:* **Bloomberg: GOP Vows Revenge for Trump Probes If They Win Congress** "Republicans vow they will waste no time tearing into the FBI search of Donald Trump's home and other investigations of the former president if the GOP wins control of Congress in November, signaling a protracted fight with the Biden administration. Party leaders and committee chairmen-in-waiting have already pledged to hold aggressive hearings and issue subpoenas in the wake of Monday's unprecedented search of the former president's Florida home." [Bloomberg, <u>8/10/22</u>]

*November 2022:* **Media Matters: Ahead Of The Midterms, Right-Wing Media Issue Marching Orders For Potential Congressional Investigations.** "In the run-up to the 2022 midterm elections, Fox News figures, right-wing personalities, and their guests are anticipating the return of a Republican-controlled House of Representatives and issuing marching orders to the potential GOP majority. Despite a history of condemning supposed 'show trials' held by Democrats, conservative commentators and personalities have assembled a lengthy list of baseless grievances for potential congressional investigations, should they come to pass. The targets of the investigations range from the Biden family to Attorney General Merrick Garland to a 'general attack on liberty." [Media Matters for America, <u>11/4/22</u>]

CNN: After Election Season, An Investigation Season Could Split The Country. "If American voters trade in Democrats for a new Republican majority in the House of Representatives, everyone will be hearing a lot more about Hunter Biden, the current president's troubled son. The House January 6 committee will be shut down, and the public inquisition Republicans have been pursuing for years against President Joe Biden's son will go into public overdrive. GOP lawmakers do not have a detailed inflation plan, the issue driving many voters to the polls. But after years on the case of investigating Hunter Biden, who has struggled with substance abuse and made a career dealing with foreign nationals, they have prepared a 1,000-page road map they plan to present to the FBI and Department of Justice. Hunter Biden is already the subject of a two-pronged federal investigation in Delaware but has not been charged with any crime. It's false to equate GOP efforts to investigate Hunter Biden's business activities with the January 6 committee's efforts to document the insurrection and Trump's effort to overturn the 2020 election. But it's with a lingering taste of the January 6 hearings and also two Trump impeachment efforts - one of which was kicked off by Trump's attempts to get Ukraine to investigate none other than Hunter Biden – that Republicans are planning to use the subpoena power of the House majority." [CNN,  $\frac{11}{4}$