

MSNBC

GOP suffers 'most spectacular embarrassment imaginable' in anti-Biden case

salon

Republicans' impeachment farce implodes with indictment of star Biden "informant"

Newsweek

James Comer Faces Potential Investigation Over Lying FBI Source

RAWSTORY

'Can someone check on Comer?' Internet mocks GOP after Biden witness charged with lying

RollingStone

The GOP's Key Hunter Biden Witness Was

NEW REPORT

JAMES COMER'S BASELESS IMPEACHMENT PROBE IS IN RUINS

February 2024

**CONGRESSIONAL
INTEGRITY PROJECT**



REPORT: James Comer's Baseless Impeachment Probe Is In Ruins

James Comer's baseless impeachment inquiry against President Biden is in shambles. Even before news broke last week that the source at the center of Comer's investigation was charged with peddling lies fed by Russian intelligence about President Biden and his family, Comer was trying to spin a disastrous interview with Trump-aligned witness Tony Bobulinski, an unhinged MAGA Republican who contradicted his own lawyer during his deposition. In addition to Bobulinski, Comer held depositions with at least six other witnesses related to his impeachment inquiry this year – and each time, he failed to uncover a single shred of evidence to support his allegations. At every step, Comer has pushed criminal lies and distortions. His impeachment inquiry has been built on a foundation of claims that have been proven false and accusations that are often the opposite of what they describe.

After over a year of investigations into President Biden, James Comer has failed to call a single witness who has been able to support his evidence-free claims, so much so he is now viewed as an embarrassment to his GOP colleagues for his repeated faceplants. Now Comer is saying that the House may never actually hold a vote on impeaching President Biden—proof this was a political charade all along. It's time to end this farce for good.

February 2024: James Comer's Star Witness Was Arrested For Peddling Criminal Lies Fed By Russian Intelligence About President Biden and His Family.

On Feb. 15, a federal court [unsealed](#) a two-count indictment of Comer's star witness, Alexander Smirnov, for making false statements accusing President Biden and his son Hunter of corruption and bribery – **exposing the debunked, criminal lie at the center of Comer's baseless impeachment inquiry.** Not only was he indicted for lying about President Biden and his family, but also [exposed](#) for meeting with and being fed information by Russian intelligence officials. Smirnov was the key informant behind an FBI Form FD-1023 dating back to 2020 that documented his secondhand account of a conversation between officials at Ukrainian energy company Burisma that supposedly implicated Joe Biden. Even though the allegations were reviewed and debunked by a [Trump-era DOJ investigation](#), [Burisma's former CEO](#), and [independent fact-checkers](#), **Smirnov's criminal lies have served as the basis for Comer's probe since May 2023, with Comer spending nine months praising Smirnov as one of the FBI's "most respected," "most effective," "most credible," "most trusted, highest paid," informants.**

As soon as Smirnov's indictment and Russian ties were exposed, **Comer started scrambling to sweep it all under the rug, stating, "He wasn't an important part of this investigation because I didn't even know who he was," in an effort to gaslight**

right-wing audiences on Newsmax – even though he swore up and down that Smirnov was credible.

- **May 2023: Comer and Grassley Failed To Produce Evidence of Bribery After Subpoenaing the FBI & Risking The Safety of Confidential Sources.** In early-May, Comer and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) published an open letter to the FBI announcing [subpoenas](#) for an unclassified document supposedly describing 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.** The Associated Press [noted](#), “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 [concurred](#): “[Republicans] acknowledged they don’t know if the allegation will pan out. [...] backing the allegation despite the scarcity of details.”
- **June 2023: Comer Hyped So-Called Bribery Tapes Connected To The FBI Form FD-1023 Allegations. He Later Admitted Not Knowing If They “Really Exist.”** On June 8, 2023, former President Trump was charged with violating the Espionage Act and obstructing justice in an ongoing investigation related to classified documents, and was indicted in federal court in Florida. Just days later – surely a coincidence! – GOP Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Comer began hyping the potential existence of [audio tapes](#) 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.**
- **June 2023: Comer Repeatedly Claimed That Bribery Allegations Had Nothing To Do With Giuliani. Rudy Says It Was All Him.** In [interview](#) after [interview](#) with friendly right-wing hosts, Comer claimed that supposed bribery allegations against Joe Biden have [nothing to do with](#) disgraced Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani. The only problem with Comer’s vehement statements? They are not true. Rudy Giuliani himself has taken credit for first raising the allegations. **Giuliani has said during several Newsmax TV appearances that he alerted the Justice Department to the allegation.** “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.”
- **July 2023: Comer And Grassley Publicly Released The Form FD-1023, Exposing The Document As An Uncorroborated FBI Tip Previously Rebutted**

In 2019. 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 risks the safety of a confidential source” – it ended up being an [uncorroborated FBI tip](#). **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.”

- **October 2023: Comer’s Witness, A Trump-Era Investigator, Admitted That He Failed To Assess Smirnov’s Credibility.** In October 2023, House Republicans made yet another attempt to validate their already-debunked allegations about the 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.**
- **October 2023: Comer Bragged That The FBI Received Information On Bribery Allegations From 40 Confidential FBI Sources – But The FBI Still Failed To Substantiate The Claims & Dropped The Investigation.** In late October, Comer and Grassley [hyped](#) a new revelation that the FBI’s investigation into bribery allegations against Joe Biden made in the Form FD-1023 released in June 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.**

February 2024: Tony Bobulinski Became Comer’s Latest Witness To Show Up Without Any Evidence of Wrongdoing.

On Feb. 13, Comer summoned Hunter Biden’s ex-associate Tony Bobulinski to testify as part of their baseless, evidence-free impeachment probe of President Biden. **Bobulinski did not provide any evidence that President Biden was involved in his family’s business dealings or proof of any wrongdoing.** He also [testified](#) that his two conversations with

President Biden did not include any discussion of his business venture with Hunter and James Biden, describing the conversations as being focused on President Biden’s “family background” and “appreciation for the military,” and even confirmed that none of his bank disclosures described President Biden or “the Big Guy” as having any share or role in the business venture. 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, Cassidy Hutchison, and former Hunter Biden business associate Rob Walker of lying and [contradicting](#) his own attorney, who said that Bobulinski did not accuse the FBI of lying. Oversight Committee ranking member Jamie Raskin (MD-08) [noted](#) that Bobulinski’s testimony was “chaotic to the point of burlesque as he repeatedly yelled, shouted, filibustered, and hurled outlandish and baseless accusations and insults.”

- **Even Though The GOP-Led Senate And Trump-Era DOJ Had Already Investigated And Ignored Bobulinski’s Claims, Comer Praised Him As A Credible Star Witness.** For months before Bobulinski’s testimony, **Comer praised him as a star witness and even claimed “everything Bobulinski has said about Hunter Biden we have fact checked and found to be true,” — even though Bobulinski’s so-called evidence had already been thoroughly investigated and rejected.** The GOP-led Senate [declined](#) to follow up after reviewing his claims and [found nothing](#) incriminating against President Biden. The Trump-era Department of Justice also does not appear to have [investigated further](#) after he [sat](#) for an interview and provided copies of his phone, and the Trump-appointed federal prosecutor involved in the case even declined testimony. Right-wing media, including [Fox News](#) and the [Wall Street Journal](#), found no evidence to corroborate Bobulinski’s allegations – as did [independent fact checkers](#).
- **Bobulinski Is A Donald Trump-Aligned Figure Whose Lawyer Is Being Paid By Trump And Marjorie Taylor Greene.** Worse still, **Bobulinski is a Trump-aligned figure who only made his revelations known at the behest of the Trump campaign weeks before the 2020 election.** The Trump White House [“met furtively”](#) with Bobulinski and directly pitched his claims to major media outlets before Trump’s campaign arranged a press conference to air his allegations. During his testimony, Bobulinsky [admitted](#) that a Trump campaign senior advisor kicked off his press conference. Trump even invited Bobulinski to the final presidential debate. Bobulinski’s lawyer, Steven Passantino, is also a former Trump White House [attorney](#) who is currently being [paid](#) by [Donald Trump](#) and MAGA Republicans like [Marjorie Taylor Greene](#).

January – February 2024: Depositions With Six Other Biden Family Associates and Business Contacts Exposed Nothing But Comer’s Lies and Lack of Evidence.

In addition to Bobulinski, Comer held at least six other depositions with friends and business associates connected to the Biden family through January and early February 2024, including James Biden’s former [business associate](#) Joseph “Joey” Langston, 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](#) George Berges. **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:**

- **Joseph Langston, Former Business Associate of James Biden: President Biden Was Not Involved In James Biden’s Business Affairs.** On Feb. 1, a former business associate of President Biden’s brother, Joseph “Joey” Langston, testified before the House Oversight committee. Before the interview, Comer [suggested](#) that Langston had information on whether Joe Biden “took any official action or effected any change in government policy because of money or other things of value provided to himself or his family.” Yet **Langston reportedly told impeachment investigators that Joe Biden was not involved in and did not profit from he and James Biden’s business affairs, and confirmed that he had not spoken to Joe Biden in more than 15 years.**
- **“Whistleblower” and Longtime Biden Family Bookkeeper Eric Schwerin: “I Am Not Aware of Any Role that Vice President Biden, As a Public Official or As a Private Citizen, Had in Any of Hunter’s Business Activities.”** On Jan. 30, longtime bookkeeper and finance manager for the Biden family Eric Schwerin testified before the House Oversight Committee. During the interview, Schwerin strongly opposed Comer’s claims, [stating](#), **“I cannot recall any requests for Vice President Biden to take any official action on behalf of any of Hunter’s clients or his business deals — foreign or domestic. In fact, I am not aware of any role that Vice President Biden, as a public official or as a private citizen, had in any of Hunter’s business activities. None.”** Comer [previously claimed](#) Schwerin was a whistleblower, and [suggested](#) that the bookkeeper served as evidence of the President’s supposed involvement in Hunter Biden’s business affairs: “when Joe Biden said there was a wall between the government and himself and his family shady business schemes, that’s not true because they had the same bookkeeper, the same guy that did the books and paid all of Joe’s -- Joe’s bills and deposited his checks and everything, was the same guy Hunter Biden used.”
- **Rob Walker, Longtime Business Associate Of Hunter Biden: President Biden “Was Never Involved In Any Of The Business Activities We Pursued.”** On Jan. 26, Comer and House Republicans interviewed Hunter Biden’s longtime business

associate Rob Walker. For weeks, Comer [claimed](#) that Walker was an alleged “vehicle” for the Biden family to supposedly funnel funds from foreign countries. Yet during the deposition, Walker [testified](#) that President Biden had no involvement in his business affairs: **“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.”**

- **Kevin Morris, Hunter Biden’s Close Friend, Exposed Comer For “Cherry-Picked, Out-Of-Context, and Totally Misleading Descriptions” of Closed-Door Deposition.** On Jan. 18, Hunter Biden’s close friend Kevin Morris gave closed-door testimony to the House Oversight Committee. After the deposition, Comer released a press statement accusing Hunter of trading Morris “access to the Biden White House” in exchange for a small personal loan. In response, Morris’ lawyer [blasted Comer’s lies](#), sending a letter calling out Comer’s “cherry-picked” statements, and demanded that Comer release the full, unedited transcript. As the lawyer reportedly said, **“Morris testified that he never thought of Joe Biden’s campaign when loaning money to Hunter Biden and was ‘only focused on helping his client.’”** After facing significant backlash, House Republicans agreed to [release](#) the full deposition transcript publicly. The transcript further exposed Comer’s lies and misleading claims, with a Washington Post analyst [writing](#), **“None of this is justified by Morris’s testimony; Comer is instead simply trying to frame Morris’s testimony in negative terms. He does so, presumably, because he knows that his close allies in right-wing media will not read the primary document and because he is signaling how the testimony should be contextualized.”**
- **Mervyn Yan, Former Hunter Biden Business Associate: “I Never Met, Spoke To, Did Business With” President Biden.** A January 2024 interview with former Hunter Biden business associate Mervyn Yan undermined Comer’s allegations against President Biden. Comer [claimed](#) that “His testimony raises many questions about the Bidens’ dealings with the Chinese government linked energy firm. Yet before the interview, Yan had told Congress that he had [“no contact”](#) with President Biden. He further confirmed that **he “never met, spoke to, did business with” President Biden.** As CNN [reported](#), Yan “is the latest example of a witness undercutting Republican allegations related to their impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden.”
- **Art Dealer Georges Bergès Testified He Had No Communication With The White House About Hunter Biden Paintings.** In early January 2024, Comer deposed art dealer Georges Bergès for a transcribed interview. Comer [claimed](#) that “This is another example of the White House lying to the American people about the shady business schemes of the Bidens.” But even Fox News [reported](#) that Bergès’ testimony turned up nothing: “A source familiar with Georges Bergès’ transcribed interview before

the House Oversight Committee said Bergès told lawmakers he’s had no communication with the White House, including about Hunter Biden’s paintings. **Bergès stated that he never told Hunter Biden who any of the buyers were, the source said.**

October – February 2024: Despite Witness Testimony Indicating Otherwise, Comer Overhyped A Loan Repayment Between James Biden and President Biden – While He Was Out-of-Office.

In mid-October 2023 Comer overhyped a transaction he discovered between James Biden and President Biden, [tweeting](#), “We have found a \$200,000 DIRECT payment to Joe Biden.” 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](#).” In late December 2023, Carol Fox, a trustee for Americore testified to the House Oversight Committee, [telling](#) the members that she **possessed no knowledge that the president was directly involved in those dealings. When House Republicans released the full transcript of Fox’s interview in February, it was revealed that Fox had refuted Comer’s claims about the \$200,000 check 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.** Fox testified that Americore was already in a dire financial situation prior to James Biden's involvement, and James was brought in to help the company secure badly needed financing. She further stated that she had not seen the \$200,000 check Comer referenced and had no evidence that Joe Biden received money from Americore, forcing Republicans to turn their line of questioning to mere speculation.

February 2024: Comer Admitted He May Not Have The Votes To Impeach President Biden.

On Feb. 15, Comer [admitted](#) that the House GOP may not actually have the votes to proceed with impeachment, reportedly saying that he “**may not hold an impeachment vote after all,**” because, “the math keeps getting worse.”

January 2024: “A Parade of Embarrassments”: After Over A Year of Baseless Investigations and Hype, House Republicans Are Doubtful About Comer’s Baseless Impeachment Probe.

In December, House Republicans voted to begin an impeachment inquiry into President Biden. Despite [indicating](#) that there was insufficient evidence to initiate formal impeachment proceedings the month prior, Speaker Johnson backed the push and voted for the inquiry. Now, Republicans are walking it back after months of insisting that a ‘smoking gun’ is just around the

corner, with Comer [claiming](#) his job “was never to impeach” – even though he was [planning politically-motivated investigations](#) before the 2022 midterm elections.

By January 2024, **Republicans ranging from Troy Nehls (R-TX) and Garret Graves (R-LA) began [expressing doubt about Comer’s impeachment inquiry](#)**, saying, “[the votes aren’t there](#),” and “[I don’t know if we have the will to do it](#).” An anonymous lawmaker [told](#) reporters, “it’s been a parade of embarrassments.” A source close to House GOP leadership [said](#), “I don’t know how Republicans actually impeach the president based on his clueless investigation and lack of leadership.” A senior House GOP aide said, “It was a disaster. They looked like buffoons...They have stumbled with high profile information that wasn't what it was promised.”

January 2024: A New Report Showed James Comer Curbed An Investigation Into Donald Trump That Turned Up Hard Evidence of Trump’s Foreign Entanglements While Serving in Office.

In January 2024, a [new bombshell report](#) released by the Minority on the House Oversight Committee laid out concrete evidence of former President Donald Trump’s foreign entanglements. While serving in office, the former president reportedly received nearly \$8 million from foreign entities – the vast majority of which come from authoritarian regimes, including China. In fact, the documents provided by Trump’s former accounting firm were made public only after House Republicans curbed an investigation into the former president’s conflicts of interest.

Comer has staked his investigation into President Biden and his family on influence peddling and foreign entanglements:

- **Comer: Americans “Need To Know” If Our Leaders “Sold Out The United States of America.”** In May 2023, Comer [stated](#) that “the American people need to know” if our nation’s leaders “sold out the United States of America” for profit.
- **Comer: Engaging In Influence Peddling With Our Adversaries, Especially China, Is Concerning.** In December 2022, Comer [expressed concern](#) about political leaders allegedly using their public office to “engage in influence peddling with our adversaries . . . most [concerningly], China.”
- **Comer: Influence Peddling Presents A “National Security Risk.”** In December 2022, Comer [stated](#) that government officials seeking to curry favor from foreign governments for personal gain is problematic because it presents a clear “national security risk” to the United States.

- **Comer Promised To Investigate Trump Family Influence Peddling In His First Presser As House Oversight Committee Chair.** Last year, Comer promised to investigate the Trump family’s influence peddling with respect to its business dealing with China while Trump was president. When asked, Comer [said](#), “We’re going to look at everything when we get ready to introduce the legislation to ban influence peddling.”

December 2023: Comer’s Corruption Allegations Against President Biden Were Quickly Debunked After Discovering They Were 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.”**

November 2023: Comer Started Winding Down His Impeachment Probe, Claiming The Investigation Was In A “Downhill Phase,” Despite Finding No Evidence of Any Wrongdoing.

In November 2023, Comer announced that his impeachment inquiry was entering a “downhill phase” – echoing his admission just one week prior that the first impeachment hearing went so poorly that he [didn't want to hold any more hearings](#).

October 2023: House Republicans’ Latest Witnesses Debunked Jim Jordan and Comer’s Lies About Special Counsel David Weiss.

In late October 2023, the House Judiciary Committee called on two U.S. attorneys – Scott Brady, who served as President Donald Trump’s U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and Martin Estrada, the current U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California – to testify on the ongoing criminal proceedings against Hunter Biden. **But instead of validating Republicans’ bogus claims about Special Counsel David Weiss, both**



witnesses [debunked](#) them. As Brady explained, he has [no reason to doubt](#) that Mr. Weiss is “fairly and honestly prosecuting the case.”

September 2023: Comer’s First Impeachment Inquiry Hearing Was An Utter Failure.

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. Republicans’ own witnesses were exposed as GOP partisans who have no evidence to support impeaching President Biden. **Two of Republicans’ three witnesses directly testified that there is no evidence to support impeachment.** The third was [exposed](#) 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 [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. 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.**”

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](#).

September 2023: Comer Announced Subpoenas of Financial Records For Joe Biden’s Corporation In 2017 – Despite Failing To Produce Evidence Linking So-Called Bribes To Shell Companies.

Comer has 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.** 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. [...] Archer, in his interview, said he did not know if that was the case,

but he insisted that Baturina was a Rosemont Realty client not connected to Hunter Biden. The staff memo, released after the Archer interview, [ignores](#) that comment.”

In late September, Comer announced he would [subpoena](#) records linked to Joe Biden’s corporation from 2017. 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.”

September 2023: Comer Found Absolutely Nothing From Emails Dating Back To Joe Biden’s Vice Presidency.

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.”

September 2023: A Former Ukrainian President Refuted Comer’s Outlandish Claim That U.S. Support For the War In Ukraine Was Rooted In A “Conflict of Interest” Stemming From Hunter Biden’s Business in the County.

Throughout early 2023, Comer spread a conspiracy theory on Newsmax about ongoing U.S. support for Ukraine throughout the Russian invasion, claiming that the Biden administration’s support represents a so-called conflict of interest supposedly stemming from then-Vice President Biden’s efforts to fire a corrupt Ukrainian prosecutor back in 2015. 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.”** The allegation is based on Comer’s long-debunked claim that the former Vice President was working to fire the prosecutor in order to benefit Hunter Biden’s business in Ukraine. But [numerous fact checkers](#) have found no evidence to support this, 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.

September 2023: Comer’s Claims That The Office of the Vice President Colluded With Hunter Biden Backfired When The Actual “Evidence” Was Revealed.

In September, Oversight Republicans claimed that the Office of the Vice President colluded with Hunter Biden’s business partner on media responses, and Comer [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.**

August – September 2023: Fact Checkers Debunked Comer’s False Claims That President Biden’s Use of An Email Pseudonym Was Code.

Comer has long 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 – September 2023: Comer’s Much-Hyped IRS Whistleblowers’ Claims About So-Called Interference With An Investigation Into Hunter Biden Completely Failed.

For nearly a year, Comer has hyped up two IRS whistleblowers – Gary Shapley and Joseph Ziegler – claiming to have damning evidence about interference in Hunter Biden investigations. **In just two months, Comer’s key IRS whistleblower allegations were debunked by at least six other witnesses brought in for questioning by Oversight Republicans** – 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 [testified](#) 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. Shapley’s supervisor also [testified](#) he recommended removing him from the Hunter Biden probe “to protect the integrity of the investigation” because he made “unsubstantiated allegations.”

- **April 2023: Comer Blatantly Misrepresented IRS Whistleblowers, Then Refused to Produce Evidence Substantiating His Claims.** For months, Comer talked to the press about four individuals he [claimed](#) were “whistleblowers.” **Problem is – 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.”

- **2023: Comer Invoked ‘Deep State’ Conspiracies Dozens of Times In Interviews, Claiming His Various Whistleblowers “Fear For Their Lives” From Biden Family & Unnamed Rogue Government Actors.** Comer [told](#) conservative commentator Brian Kilmeade, “As I said on Fox, [whistleblowers] fear for their lives, not just from the Biden family, from rogue intelligence people within our government.”
- **July 2023: Comer’s IRS Whistleblowers Testified That There’s No Evidence President Biden Interfered In IRS/DOJ Investigations Into Hunter Biden.** Despite their lofty claims, [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.](#)

August 2023: “Less Than A Phantom:” Comer’s Latest Report Produced No Evidence of A Bribe.

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. [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’s Supposed Star Witness Devon Archer 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. As [ABC](#) 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.”

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](#) as bombshell testimony. 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.”

June – August 2023: Comer Falsely Claimed that the Biden Family Took More than \$20 Million from Foreign Nations.

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.”**

April & May 2023: Comer’s Second Bank Memo Failed To Produce Evidence Linking President Biden To Outlandish Claims.



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.”

November 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.”

October 2022: 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.