



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subcommittee Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

“Consequences of Failure: Republicans Obsess Over Biden as Trump's Policies Make Our Communities Less Safe”

March 25, 2025

More than two months into the Trump administration, Americans want to know why administration officials aren't here to answer our questions. Why haven't Republicans held a single hearing with administration witnesses this Congress? Why don't Trump administration officials answer to this Committee for their immigration policies?

Are they afraid of answering our questions about why they have rounded up and detained U.S. citizens? Even deported U.S. citizens with no due process? Including a 10-year-old American girl battling brain cancer?

Don't they want to explain why they have “disappeared” people with no criminal record or evidence of wrongdoing from this country without so much as a hearing, in defiance of a Federal judge's order? Or why they have pulled law enforcement off cases targeting child abusers, traffickers, and smugglers to carry out immigration raids against people with no criminal history?

And that's just what we know about from media reports. We've received next to no information from DHS on what's happening despite our inquiries.

Administration officials want to go on Fox News and pose for photo ops, but they don't want to be held accountable by Congress. And congressional Republicans are complicit in helping them evade oversight.

Today, my Republican colleagues want to talk about the Biden administration, yet again, rather than the bad policies and abuses of the Trump administration.

I guess it's to be expected. I understand many of my Republican colleagues are hiding from their own constituents, having been directed by their leadership not to hold town halls to hear from constituents who are upset at Trump's policies.

We should be focusing on the issues affecting our communities today. This administration, with the help of unelected billionaire Elon Musk, is ignoring laws passed by Congress. They are making Americans less safe while increasing prices for everyday goods.

This Committee should be providing oversight on the Trump administration as they sentence people with no criminal records to hard labor in a notorious prison in El Salvador.

This committee should be examining how ordering thousands of special agents to assist ICE with immigration enforcement hurts the government's ability to conduct criminal investigations into child exploitation, human trafficking, drug smuggling, arms smuggling, and tax fraud.

Or worse yet, to assign the FBI to investigate Tesla damage as an act of domestic terrorism. President Trump has even suggested convicted criminals of these crimes, including U.S. citizens, could be sent to the notorious mega prison in El Salvador. The very same place he is disappearing migrants to under the Alien Enemies Act.

It doesn't make us safer when the administration pauses serious criminal investigations so that special agents can help ICE can arrest people in communities who pose no harm.

This Committee should be conducting oversight of the Trump Administration squandering millions in taxpayer money to house migrants in inhumane conditions at Guantanamo. Trump said that the worst of the worst would be held there, but many of the detainees had no criminal records at all. One migrant was sent there for riding his bike on the wrong side of the road. That certainly doesn't sound like the worst of the worst.

We've also heard of U.S. citizens being detained and questioned by ICE. CBP has detained and effectively deported U.S. citizens. That's not who we are as a people.

There are real threats to this country that we need to focus on. While the Trump administration is fixated on creating sound bites and photo ops, Democrats will remain focused on doing what's best for the American people. The Trump administration should be here to answer our questions.

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