



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Case-by-Case: Returning Parole to its Proper Purpose

April 8, 2025

Republicans have controlled the government for 78 days now, but they are still thinking about Joe Biden.

When President Biden left office in January 2025, border crossings of individuals without proper documents were at the lowest levels since August 2020. America was performing. Unemployment was at its lowest rate in 55 years. America was leading. The U.S. economy had the highest GDP growth of any major economy in the world.

I guess Republicans keep looking backward because they know there is nothing to look forward to in the Trump administration. Let's talk about the present—and the current President.

Under Donald Trump, taxes are up, and the stock market is down. Republicans say that's just short-term pain. Under Donald Trump, unemployment is up, and government services are down. Republicans say that's just efficiency. Under Donald Trump, grocery prices are up, and consumer confidence is down. Republicans say that's just a readjustment.

Do you see a pattern here? When the Trump administration is caught with its hand around the necks of the American People, Republicans deflect. Nothing is the fault of their "Orange Jesus."

And when the administration does admit something went wrong, it is never their fault. The Secretary of Defense leaked classified war plans to a journalist. Republicans called it an accident. Immigration and Customs Enforcement deported a man who had protected legal status granted by an immigration court. Trump's Press Secretary called it a clerical error. The Federal government fired the employees who maintain our nuclear weapons. Republicans said oops, just another accident.

It's no wonder that these people are rehashing their tired talking points about the Biden administration. Republicans simply cannot take responsibility for the present or for their President. They are stuck in the past. Republicans are not interested in "Returning Parole to its Proper Purpose" as their hearing title suggests. I say that because the proper purpose of parole under Republican and Democratic administrations has always been to help people in desperate need. But Donald Trump and Republicans are only interested in cruelty, chaos, and deflection.

The truth of the matter is that Donald Trump has essentially ended the lawful parole and closed legal pathways for people to seek safety in the United States. When illegal immigration goes up as a result, I am sure that Republicans will conjure some new excuse for their failures. But they will not be able to hide from the truth for much longer.

It is time for my colleagues to get over their unhealthy obsession with Joe Biden and focus on the present—and their failed President.

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