

Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government
Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government
10:00 AM, Wednesday, September 25, 2024
2141 RHOB
Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA)

Chairman Jim Jordan’s Select Subcommittee to Weaponize the Federal Government was established to counterprogram the historic work of the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol. The January 6th Committee conducted more than 1,000 interviews, produced key testimony from Trump Administration witnesses, held hearings on former President Trump’s attempt to overturn the 2020 election, recommended important legislative reforms to the Electoral Count Act, and made four criminal referrals to the Department of Justice (DOJ) against former President Donald Trump.

Chairman Jordan began the work of the Select Subcommittee with promises of “dozens and dozens” of whistleblowers who were going to blow the top off a vast, government-wide deep state conspiracy. He was going to prove that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), of all places, was home to a left-wing cabal dedicated to crushing free speech.

Chairman Jordan’s pathetic effort ends today with the groundbreaking discovery that government personnel processes are not moving as quickly as they should. On that point, I hope he will join me in ensuring that federal employees have the protections and timely due process considerations necessary to promote a professional and non-partisan civil service.

Chairman Jordan can demonstrate his newfound commitment to federal employee rights by opposing former President Trump’s and Project 2025’s plan for the federal workforce – a political purge that will terminate more than 50,000 federal employees to replace them with political partisans. There is no greater threat to whistleblowers than former President Trump and the Project 2025 political purge of the federal government.

During former President Trump’s first and only term, Chairman Jordan enabled and supported former President Trump’s attacks on whistleblowers. The former President engaged in efforts of retaliation that extended beyond whistleblowers themselves to family members and the Inspectors General who handled their complaints faithfully.

The Department of Defense (DOD) Inspector General (IG) found that Trump Administration officials retaliated against the brother of Retired Army Col. Alexander Vindman. Col. Vindman famously corroborated the claims of a whistleblower who exposed former President Trump’s effort to extort the President of Ukraine, a country that was already at war with Vladimir Putin’s Russia. President Trump was subsequently impeached for his treachery.

Former President Trump terminated Michael Atkinson, the Inspector General for the Intelligence Community (IC), who referred the Ukraine whistleblower’s complaint to Congress. Former President Trump claimed that Mr. Atkinson mishandled the complaint. Our witness here today, DOJ Inspector General Michael Horowitz, issued an April 2020 statement on former IC IG Atkinson, which highlighted his “integrity, professionalism, and commitment to the rule of law and independent oversight.” Mr. Horowitz added that Mr. Atkinson’s actions in handling the Ukraine whistleblower complaint were done “by the book” and consistent with the law.

This has been the story of Chairman Jordan’s Select Subcommittee to Weaponize the Federal Government. At nearly every turn, it has been plagued by a clinical case of projection – seeing in everyone else the same abuses of power and weaponization former President Trump engaged in repeatedly and that Republicans forgave without fail.