

Representative Jared Moskowitz (FL-23)

Thank you, Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Garcia, and Members of the Committee. As the Representative for Florida's 23rd Congressional District and a former member of the Oversight Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today about the importance of truthfulness, accountability, and responsible use of the President's bully pulpit.

This Committee is currently conducting an investigation into the horrific and unconscionable crimes committed by Jeffrey Epstein and the institutional failures that allowed those crimes to continue. As a member of the Judiciary Committee who has shared jurisdiction of this investigation, I believe this work deserves seriousness and a shared understanding that oversight is most effective when it is grounded in facts rather than speculation. When this Committee speaks, and when the President speaks, our words shape whether the public sees oversight as a search for truth or as another partisan exercise.

As part of this investigation, the Committee has sought testimony from former President Bill Clinton. Unfortunately, that decision appears to be driven in part by conspiracy theories promoted by President Donald Trump, including the repeated claim that President Clinton visited Epstein's private island dozens of times. That claim has been made publicly and forcefully, but without evidence. Not only is there no proof that those visits occurred, but even the President's current Chief of Staff has acknowledged that the claim is not supported by evidence.

What is supported by the record is that the President himself apparently appears in Epstein related materials. During testimony before the Judiciary, FBI Director Kash Patel agreed that the FBI would investigate the President's claim that his signature in Jeffrey Epstein's birthday book was forged, confirming that documents bearing the President's name are part of the Epstein records under review. Separately, the President's current Chief of Staff has confirmed that she reviewed the Epstein file, that President Trump is in that file, and that he appears on Epstein's plane manifest. That acknowledgment came from the President's own top aide, not from Democrats. Yet the focus of this investigation has increasingly shifted toward a former President whose has not held public office in twenty-five years, rather than toward the actions, statements, and responsibilities of the sitting President.

That context matters. Oversight cannot be built on false premises or selective focus. Donald Trump is the sitting President of the United States. Bill Clinton is not. When attention is directed primarily at a former President from years ago while the current President promotes unsupported allegations and deflects from his own documented associations, it risks turning oversight into political theater rather than a fact based inquiry into government conduct.

Real oversight means focusing on institutional failures, agency decisions, and compliance with the law. It means examining how Epstein was able to evade accountability for years, how he was treated while in federal custody, and whether the current administration is meeting its transparency obligations. That is where this Committee can do meaningful work and serve the public interest.