

**OVERSIGHT OF FRAUD AND MISUSE OF
FEDERAL FUNDS IN MINNESOTA: PART I**

HEARING

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM**

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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- * Article, *CNN Politics*, “USAID IG Fired Day After Report Critical of Impacts of Trump Administration’s Dismantling of the Agency”; submitted by Rep. Walkinshaw.

The documents listed above are available at: docs.house.gov.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- * Questions for the Record: Mr. Brendan Ballou; submitted by Rep. Shontel Brown.
- * Questions for the Record: Hon. Walter Hudson; submitted by Chairman James Comer.
- * Questions for the Record: Hon. Marion Rarick; submitted by Chairman James Comer.
- * Questions for the Record: Hon. Kristin Robbins; submitted by Chairman James Comer.
- * Questions for the Record: Hon. Kristin Robbins; submitted by Rep. Michael Turner.

These documents were submitted after the hearing, and may be available upon request.

OVERSIGHT OF FRAUD AND MISUSE OF FEDERAL FUNDS IN MINNESOTA: PART I

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:03 a.m., in room HVC-210, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Hon. James Comer [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Comer, Jordan, Turner, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Cloud, Palmer, Higgins, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, Fallon, Donalds, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, Boebert, Luna, Langworthy, Burlison, Crane, Jack, McGuire, Gill, Garcia, Norton, Lynch, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Stansbury, Frost, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Randall, Subramanyam, Ansari, Bell, Simon, Min, Walkinshaw, Pressley, and Tlaib.

Also present: Representatives Emmer, Stauber, Fischbach, and Finstad.

Chairman COMER. The hearing on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will come to order. I want to welcome everyone here today.

Without objection, the Chair may declare a recess at any time.

I now recognize myself for the purpose of making an opening statement.

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JAMES COMER REPRESENTATIVE FROM KENTUCKY

Good morning. Today, the House Oversight Committee is holding its first hearing on the massive fraud in Minnesota's social services program. Minnesota social services, which are funded by you, the American taxpayer, are being ripped off. The most vulnerable are suffering as a result. Federal prosecutors estimate that these criminals have stolen at least \$9 billion. The fraudsters, many of whom are from Minnesota's Somali community, have stolen from programs meant to feed needy kids, provide services to autistic children, house low-income and disabled Americans, and provide healthcare to vulnerable Medicaid recipients. Fraudsters like these take millions to enrich themselves while providing nothing, overstating or outright faking the services.

How many children have gone hungry because fraudsters stole money that was intended to provide them with food? How many autistic children were denied services because fraudsters instead

sent this money overseas? How many low-income seniors, people with disabilities, or those with mental illnesses were denied access to housing because fraudsters drained resources and pocketed the money for themselves?

The breadth and depth of this fraud is breathtaking, and I fear that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The U.S. Department of Justice is already investigating another Minnesota service program after a disabled man, battling drug addiction, under the care of a fraudulent full-time provider, died because of neglect. Governor Tim Walz, Attorney General Keith Ellison, and Minnesota's Democrat leadership have either been asleep at the wheel or complicit in these crimes.

How could they allow this massive fraud to go on for years? This is why we are here today. We must expose this theft of taxpayer dollars and hold everybody accountable who let it happen.

Today we are joined by witnesses from Minnesota State House of Representatives who have been fighting this fight for years. These legislators are on the front lines, uncovering fraud in Minnesota social services programs day in and day out, and trying to get their state agencies to fix it. Thank you all for what you are doing to uncover the truth.

This is not just a Minnesota problem. It is a problem for taxpayers across the United States. About 35 percent of Minnesota's budget comes from Federal grants; 35 percent of Minnesota's budget comes from Federal grants.

Hardworking Americans pay those taxes, and that money is being funneled to fraudsters, funding luxury homes, fancy cars, and vacations abroad. Some of it is even allegedly going overseas to support terrorists.

And, yet, Governor Walz, Attorney General Ellison, and Minnesota Democrats failed to act despite countless warnings. They failed Minnesotans, and all Americans, handing millions of taxpayer dollars to fraudsters. They failed children and others in Minnesota. They failed their own state employees, some of whom have come forward as whistleblowers. These whistleblowers have told us that the Walz Administration retaliated against employees who warned and alerted the Administration to the fraud occurring within these social services programs. Again, Governor Walz accused employees, who were simply doing their jobs, of racism, Islamophobia, and threatened surveillance to silence them.

President Trump and his Administration are taking a whole-of-government approach and prosecuting these fraudsters. To date, the U.S. Department of Justice has charged 98 defendants in Minnesota fraud-related cases, 85 of whom are of Somali descent; 64 have already been convicted.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is on the ground conducting investigations of suspected fraud sites in Minnesota.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has frozen childcare payments and started requiring documentation to prove entities are indeed providing childcare.

Other Federal agencies are halting grant programs, investigating public housing fraud, and strengthening program eligibility requirements.

The American people demand jail time for those who stole their hard-earned money and accountability for officials who sat by as resources were drained.

Congress must ensure there is change and accountability, so this does not happen again.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today. Americans thank you all for exposing this critical issue.

And, with that, I yield to Ranking Member Garcia for his opening statement.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER ROBERT GARCIA
REPRESENTATIVE FROM CALIFORNIA**

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Chairman Comer. I just want to start by thanking, of course, our witnesses for being here today and for all of our Members being back.

We all agree—I think everyone on both sides of the aisle can agree that fraud is a threat at every level of government, in every private sector business, and to every single American. Fraud exists everywhere. When I was mayor of my hometown in Long Beach, we worked for better and more efficient government and took on fraud whenever it existed and wherever it appeared to protect taxpayers. It is something that all of us take seriously every single day. When we find fraud, we should punish people and those that are committing it against the American public, especially when it damages services that people rely on.

Now, what we should not do is use fraud as an excuse to rip away aid from innocent people who follow the rules and need help in our society. We should fight fraud when people rip off programs designed to help working families. And, also, we should fight fraud when large corporations and wealthy individuals dodge their own taxes and rig the system for their own benefit. And, especially, we should fight fraud when figures in our government, particularly those in power within the White House or agencies, get rich and profit from their offices.

Fraud is never acceptable, and it undermines public trust, whoever commits it. But let us remember that some of the worst fraud and corruption is actually found at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Republicans like to talk about fraud in states with Democratic Governors, oftentimes exclusively. But Republicans also have a President who has pardoned or reduced jail time for 25 criminals convicted of fraud in this year alone. Now, some of these fraudsters have made also huge campaign contributions to Donald Trump. And, worst of all, Trump's pardons mean that these criminals can avoid paying back more than \$1 billion which they owe their victims and dwarfs much of the fraud that the House Majority wants to talk about today.

This is actually the opposite of accountability. Instead, the House Majority wants to excuse and cut programs, which they have done from the start. Now, Donald Trump's signature law cut money for healthcare and food programs. Medicaid and CHIP help almost half the kids in the United States see a doctor. And that, we lost, of course, a trillion dollars in those programs. Over ten million people could lose healthcare. Trump's law also cut 40 million people who

use SNAP. And this includes, by the way, one out of every five kids. And this is happening not just in Minnesota.

The President plans to freeze more than ten billion for childcare subsidies, social services, and cash support for low-income families in Minnesota, New York, Colorado, Illinois, and my home State of California. Of course, we know these states have Democratic Governors that Donald Trump wants to punish. And we should look at those consequences if we want to talk about fraud.

In Minnesota, which we are talking about today, Donald Trump is removing childcare funding for the entire state. That frozen funding provides childcare for over 18,000 kids. These kids did not commit fraud. So, I want to know why they should be punished. Last night, he said he is withholding all, possibly, Medicaid funds from Minnesota, which could harm one in five residents. Now, in New York, another state he is threatening, that is over 66,000 innocent kids while pardoning, of course, 25 fraudsters and robbing victims of over \$1 billion.

Donald Trump should have to face the kids and parents who will be hurt even though they have done nothing wrong. I want to know what the President and the House majority expect the parents of these kids to do.

Many do not seem to care. He wants to pardon and protect more rich crooks and fraudsters who have robbed over a billion dollars from innocent people.

Now, in California, in my home state, this threatens over 176,000 kids—176,000 kids—while he continues, of course, to pardon fraudsters and connected folks that have donated immense amounts of money to his campaign.

Now, this hurts not just Democratic families but Republican families. It is innocent kids, regardless of political party, who need childcare. We are in an affordability crisis, and the Majority is not going after the real fraud being committed to the American public.

Now, in Illinois, he has threatened funding for more than 62,000 kids—62,000 kids. And, finally, in Colorado, the other state that he is going after, more than 16,000 kids will lose funding.

But we know, of course, that the President will let his friends get away with crime. And I want to point out one last thing which is so important.

While Donald Trump attacks these states, the *Wall Street Journal* on Monday reported a massive Mississippi scandal. Mississippi, of course, is not on Trump's list. We do not have witnesses from Mississippi here today. Oversight Republicans are not calling in Governor Tate. And I think the question is why? We have real fraud happening yet there is zero interest, apparently, in what is happening here in Mississippi and other places.

Republicans want to cut benefits and attack states with Democratic Governors. And, what it has done, particularly in places like Minnesota, it has unleashed bigotry and hate. Minnesota childcare centers have become the target of harassment and even vandalism and theft. Parents are afraid to drop their kids off in the morning and go to work.

This is an opportunity, again, to attack for the House Majority and smear innocent people without evidence. If we cared about fraud, we would be starting at the very top. This is critical for the

country and to actually take on fraud and abuse and the fraudsters that are being pardoned across the United States. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

I would like to now welcome our witnesses here today. First, we have Kristin Robbins, Chairwoman of the Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy Committee and Representative for District 37A in the Minnesota House of Representatives. Welcome.

Next, we have Walter Hudson, a member of the Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy Committee and Representative from Minnesota's District 30A.

Next, we have Marion Rarick, a member of Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy Committee and Representative for District 29B in Minnesota.

Last, we have Brendan Ballou, a former special counsel at the Department of Justice.

Thank you all for joining us, and we look very forward to your testimony today. This is an issue the American people are very interested in.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 9(g), the witnesses will please stand and raise their right hand.

Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman COMER. Let the record show that the witnesses answered in the affirmative.

Thank you all, and you may take a seat.

We appreciate you being here today and look forward to your testimony. Let me remind the witnesses that we have read your written statements, and they will appear in full in the hearing record. Please limit your oral statements to 5 minutes. As a reminder, please press the button on the microphone in front of you so that it is on and the Members can hear you. When you begin to speak, the light in front of you will turn green. After 4 minutes, the light will turn yellow. When the red light comes on, your 5 minutes have expired, and we would ask that you please wrap up.

I now recognize Representative Robbins for her opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF HON. KRISTIN ROBBINS
REPRESENTATIVE (37A)
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CHAIR, FRAUD PREVENTION AND STATE AGENCY
OVERSIGHT POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms. ROBBINS. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members. Thank you for inviting us to testify.

As Chair of the Fraud Prevention Committee in Minnesota, I have been working to uncover the massive fraud under Tim Walz, propose solutions, and hold state agencies accountable. Today I will highlight the scale of the problem, outline the work our Committee is doing to fight the fraud, and provide a road map for other states on how to detect and stop fraud.

Minnesota is one of the highest taxed states in the Nation, and hardworking Minnesotans have been told that they do not pay their fair share for years. In truth, Minnesotans pay much more in taxes than in other states. And, when they pay their taxes, they expect that their money is going to things that help our communities: roads, schools, healthcare, and law enforcement. They do not want their tax dollars absconded by criminals to buy resorts and apartment buildings in Kenya, property in Turkey, and luxury homes and cars in the United States.

Tim Walz and his Administration have willfully turned a blind eye to crime in the face of countless whistleblower and auditor reports as well as stories by local investigative journalists and the *Center of the American Experiment*.

These are actual crimes that must be punished. They are crimes against our moral values and erode trust in government. The time for accountability and justice is here.

First, we are unearthing staggering amounts of fraud in Minnesota. As far back as 2014, there were credible whistleblower allegations of millions in daycare fraud. Instead of shutting it down, the state minimized whistleblower reports and allowed fraud to grow. Unfortunately, childcare fraud was just the tip of the iceberg.

Since 2019, Tim Walz and Minnesota Democrats have allowed fraud to absolutely explode in Minnesota. There has been more than \$300 million in the Feeding our Future child nutrition program scandal. And the Feeding our Future prosecutions revealed that as many as half of those indicted also ran other Medicaid-funded programs. Yet, despite this being known back in 2023, Tim Walz and his agencies have done nothing to stop those defendants from getting additional state money.

We have now found fraud in multiple Medicaid programs, including autism centers, sober homes, non-emergency medical transportation, integrated community supports, and housing stabilization. Just last month, our Committee held a hearing on credible allegations of fraud in two new areas: adult day services and assisted living.

First U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson, the leading prosecutor in these cases from the Biden Administration and the Trump Administration, says the fraud could be an astronomical \$9 billion. In the face of mounting reports and literal criminal indictments and convictions, the Walz Administration has repeatedly and publicly denied or downplayed the fraud. Just last January, the Commissioner of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Jodi Harpstead, who had been on the job for five and a half years, said, "There are a lot more rumors of fraud than there is actual fraud."

You cannot make this up. The Walz Administration has been gaslighting Minnesotans on the scale of the fraud problem for years. In response, when Republicans took control—or ended Democrat control of the Minnesota House last year, we created the Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Committee. Since last February, we have held 15 hearings where we have grilled officials, exposed new areas of fraud, and repeatedly flagged failures in internal controls.

I authored a new law to expand whistleblower protection, and we created a portal, *mnfraud.com*, resulting in a surge of new whistleblower reports that our amazing staff is still working through.

Under the leadership of our Vice Chair, Patti Anderson, we passed a bipartisan bill in the Senate to create an independent Office of Inspector General. When it got to the House, Democrats killed it because the DHS Commissioner testified against it.

The Tim Walz Administration has utterly failed to protect Minnesota taxpayers and vulnerable citizens, ignoring years of credible reports and retaliating against those who spoke up, often by claiming they were racist or Islamophobic. Tim Walz and the Democrats have repeatedly protected their political base at the expense of all Minnesotans. Other states should learn from the failures of the Walz Administration. So, I will give you a quick road map on how to find and stop fraud.

First, culture matters. Fraud flourishes when leaders ignore it and criminals see they can get away with it.

Second, fraud flourishes when basic internal controls are not followed. This is not complicated.

Third, you have to look at the interconnections of relationships in businesses and multiple program areas in Medicaid. It is a huge red flag that has been ignored in our state.

Finally, it is important to say what is true and to stand up against fake allegations of racism or Islamophobia. Crime is crime no matter who is committing it. It is true that the majority of the fraud in Minnesota has taken place in the Somali community. And it is also true that some of our best whistleblowers are from the Somali community. Democrats refuse to acknowledge this truth, and that has enabled criminals to steal billions and hurt our vulnerable citizens.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to share the lessons from Minnesota and for your help in investigating these crimes. The time for justice and accountability is now.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. I now recognize Representative Hudson for his opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF HON. WALTER HUDSON
REPRESENTATIVE (30A)
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MEMBER, FRAUD PREVENTION AND
STATE AGENCY OVERSIGHT POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mr. HUDSON. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today for the record. I am Minnesota State Representative Walter Hudson, a second term member who sits on our House Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Committee.

The recent national conversation about fraud in Minnesota has been fraught with distractions, diverting from critical concerns regarding process, policy, and oversight, to sideshow concerns about personalities and partisan politics. My role here today is to cut through all of that and provide you with a clear picture of a culture which has developed over many years around the several generous benefit programs which Minnesota provides to our residents.

Well-documented oversight failures have led to a lack of program integrity, creating incentives for people to monetize programs beyond their legislative intent, to turn benefits into business. Contrary to the claim just made by the Ranking Member that there is no evidence of this fraud, attached to my written testimony you will find a document which collates several reports made over the past 15 years by Minnesota's nonpartisan Office of Legislative Auditor along with transcripts of each of our hearings from the Fraud Committee, where we heard directly from staff and leaders within the state agencies which administer these programs.

Here is what that record indicates: Within the State of Minnesota, government oversight has been unable to keep up with program expansion due to a combination of factors. One, rapid expansion of funding and provider participation. Two, payment systems that prioritize access and speed. Three, verification mechanisms that occur after funds are distributed. Four, oversight capacity that does not scale with spending. And, five, diffuse accountability across agencies and contractors.

This combination of factors has fostered a booming new sector of the economy that relies upon the continuation of and expansion of government programs to fuel private sector profits.

I want to be clear: Even when the law is being followed precisely, by every jot and tittle, incentives still exist to abuse these programs and waste taxpayer dollars by diverting funding to profit centers rather than providing a safety net for those in temporary need.

Now, criminal fraud is rampant. Deputy U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson serving the district of Minnesota has said that he could keep a thousand prosecutors busy. But he is limited to a mere 25, only five of which are tasked with building fraud cases. He estimates that the total amount of criminal fraud over five years may reach \$9 billion, which is fully one-half of the money that has been directed to these programs by the state.

While Governor Tim Walz and other stakeholders dispute that assessment, the point I wish to emphasize is this: Whatever the actual number is, the full scope of the problem is not just criminal fraud but a culture of profiting from government programs in perpetuity, not as a safety net but as an industry. I have personally met and had discussions with folks who identify themselves as consultants for multiple entities accepting government benefits. They have made a career out of showing people how to leverage the gaps in government oversight to maximize benefit payments.

Now, such conduct may not actually break the law. And that is the point. We have a system whereby an entire industry can operate under the color of law, raking in tremendous profits for individuals all while having no incentive to save the taxpayer money or lift legitimate beneficiaries out of need.

Instead, as the market for funneling benefits into businesses increases, so too does the perceived need for benevolent services. If nothing changes, if oversight is not tightened, if incentives are not changed, spending on these programs will only continue to increase with no commensurate increase in either public good or public confidence in our governing institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony for the record. I look forward to answering what questions I can.

Chairman COMER. Thank you.

I now recognize Representative Rarick for her opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARION RARICK
REPRESENTATIVE (29B)
MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MEMBER, FRAUD PREVENTION AND
STATE AGENCY OVERSIGHT POLICY COMMITTEE**

Ms. RARICK. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members. For the record, my name is Marion Rarick, and I am currently serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives in House District 29B. I am a member on the Minnesota House Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Committee, which was recently formed in January '25.

I was first asked to serve on the Committee in January—on January 4, and soon after, the five Republican members began to meet. During one of those discussions, I was asked to reach out to the Department of Human Services whistleblowers on X, now called Minnesota Staff Fraud Reporting Commentary.

I had been following them in the previous year. I reached out through a direct tweet on X on January 16, and the very same day I got a response back that, yes, they would be willing to speak to the Fraud Prevention Committee.

Since that first contact, Chair Robbins and I and Representative Hudson have had multiple conference calls with them, and we have had one in-person meeting. At that meeting, there were both former and current employees.

I have continued to message with them very often, sometimes daily, and their collective message has been completely consistent. Instead of focusing on fraudsters, DHS leadership instead focused its surveillance on employees. Since then, their expressed fear of retaliation has intensified under an avalanche of fraud in Minnesota. Their numbers have grown from 480 DHS employees, both current and former, to over 1,000 across multiple state agencies.

They have told me repeatedly how grateful they are to the House Fraud Prevention Committee for focusing our attention on fraud in the state programs, using their inside information while keeping them completely protected. They have explained that they live in a constant state of fear of retaliation. One only has to look at what happened to Faye Bernstein to understand why. In a very recent *Newsweek* article dated December 13 of 2025, Ms. Bernstein, a former compliance specialist, stated, “Minnesota DHS functions in the opposite manner as you would think. Employees who suggest improvements or, heaven forbid, report fraud then face significant retaliation. The messenger is shot.”

In 2019, Bernstein said she alerted Minnesota DHS officials to sloppy contracting practices that were not legally compliant. But it is not what most people would even consider fraud. She says she was later escorted out of the building, faced lengthy investigation, got trespassed from all DHS-owned and leased properties, and received involuntary transfer to another state agency. So, she says,

“So, today, if someone asked me should I report fraud within DHS, I say no, no, no. It is career suicide plus a whole lot more.”

So, let us talk about that, “plus a whole lot more.” In our face-to-face meetings with a group of whistleblowers, they reveal that retaliation now includes threats of being fired with cause, which means you do not get unemployment insurance in the State of Minnesota, being blacklisted from all state agencies, and I would note, most likely, our largest counties as well, which are Democrat run, and then there was a veiled threat of the use of military intelligence against them.

They later informed me that it was discovered that in some targeted employees’ or suspected whistleblowers’ personnel files were pictures of their homes and their cars. They also described that supervisors asked them questions about their families that, to them, felt like a threat. One example was “We need to know where your kids go to school and where their bus stops are.”

I will also note that whistleblowers we spoke to described many times that DHS used surveillance programs to surveil employees’ emails and chats and other communications, looking for key words like fraud, double-billing, underspending, and overpayments.

One example that the whistleblowers let me know about Lieutenant Governor Flanagan—April 12, 2024, Flanagan comes to a DHS Health and Human Services equity conference at the Heritage Center and Brooklyn Center. On stage, Flanagan acknowledges the X account and the fraud concerns it raised and publicly denounced the X users and called them weirdos and losers sitting in their mothers’ basement. This was in a public setting with hundreds of participants, and it elicited gasps among the crowd. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Thank you.

I now recognize Mr. Ballou for his opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF MR. BRENDAN BALLOU (MINORITY WITNESS)
FORMER SPECIAL COUNSEL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Mr. BALLOU. Thank you. My name is Brendan Ballou. I am a former Federal prosecutor and a native Minnesotan.

Like all Minnesotans, like all Americans who have heard this story, I am deeply distressed by the fraud on the state social service programs. Most notably, in 2022, the Department of Justice indicted 47 people for stealing an estimated \$246 million in funds meant to feed children during the COVID-19 pandemic. As late as 2025, 78 people have been indicted as part of this scheme, and 56 have pleaded guilty. More recently, the Department has charged over a dozen people for stealing \$14 million from a program meant for children with autism and millions more from a program meant to help disabled Minnesotans maintain stable housing.

This is heartbreaking for several reasons. At the most basic level, money meant for the neediest among us—the hungry, the disabled, the destitute—was stolen. I fear that skepticism of Minnesota’s social safety net, one of the things that makes the state great, will grow, and it will be harder to fund these programs in the future. And I fear that the actions of a few people will be used to demonize an entire population of Somali and East African Minnesotans who

overwhelmingly have made the state more vibrant, more diverse, and more prosperous.

I also fear the selective interest in fraud in America, because, at the same time that these crimes are rightly being investigated by state and Federal authorities, the larger infrastructure for prosecuting fraud and white-collar crime is being dismantled. Let me give you a few examples.

In February 2025, the Department of Justice paused enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which prohibits foreign bribery, and criminal violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act which, as the name suggests, prohibits acting as a secret agent of a foreign power.

Between February and April of last year, the Department disbanded its KleptoCapture Task Force, which enforced sanctions against Russian oligarchs and the National Cryptocurrency Enforcement Team. And, last year, the Department forced out most of the lawyers of the Public Integrity Section, which prosecutes crimes by government officials, announced plans to dismantle the Tax Division, which prosecutes tax evasion, and shuttered the FBI task force that investigated congressional misconduct.

More than just dismantling infrastructure for pursuing violations of the law, the government is, for favored defendants, appearing to enable it. In 2024, the Justice Department indicted Andrew Wiederhorn, the CEO of a casual fast-food chain, for allegedly stealing \$47 million from his own company. After his business donated \$100,000 to the Trump inaugural committee, his case was dropped, and the line-level prosecutor on his case was fired.

In 2021, the Department sued Boeing for deceiving the government about the software that caused two plane crashes, killing 346 people. After donating \$1 million to the inaugural committee, Boeing negotiated a favorable deferred prosecution agreement that the judge overseeing the case said, quote, “fails to secure the necessary accountability to ensure the safety of the flying public.” But he felt compelled by precedent to accept it, nevertheless.

The examples continue. Banks that contributed to the inaugural committee had litigations against them for violating consumer financial protection laws dropped, and so, too, did cryptocurrency companies that were investigated and sued by the Securities and Exchange Commission and who contributed to the inaugural committee.

Crucially, those crypto companies that did not donate to the committee or other affiliated entities remain defendants of the government.

The scale of these frauds involve millions stolen and hundreds killed, and yet they have received a fraction of the attention of the fraud that happened in Minnesota. This concerns me because we are both dismantling our infrastructure for fighting fraud and providing a road map for how those fraudsters who are prosecuted can buy their way out of justice.

While we need to pursue the fraud we are seeing in Minnesota social safety programs for all the reasons I said, because it is the weakest among us who are being harmed, we cannot selectively show an interest in fraud. If we do, we put some people, the very

powerful and the very rich, beyond the reach of the law. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Thank you all for your opening statements.

We will now begin the questioning portion of the hearing. And the Chair recognizes Mr. Gill from Texas for the first question.

Mr. GILL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for holding this hearing so expeditiously.

We all know this is an important issue not just in terms of welfare fraud but also immigration more broadly. So, we appreciate it. And thank you for the witnesses for taking the time to come here.

I want to start with you, Mr. Ballou. Again, thank you for being here. Let me ask you, does large-scale Somali immigration make Minnesota stronger or weaker?

Mr. BALLOU. Certainly stronger.

Mr. GILL. Certainly stronger. Do you know what percentage of Somali-headed households in Minnesota are on food stamps?

Mr. BALLOU. No.

Mr. GILL. 54 percent. Do you know what that number is for native Minnesota-headed households?

Mr. BALLOU. Well, to be clear, a majority of the—

Mr. GILL. It is seven—it is seven percent. There is a big difference between 54 percent and seven percent; is there not?

Mr. BALLOU. Excuse me, sir. Could I—could I answer the question?

Mr. GILL. Let me move on. We have got a lot of questions here. What percentage of Somali-headed households in Minnesota are on Medicaid?

Mr. BALLOU. I do not know.

Mr. GILL. It is 73 percent. Do you know what that number is for Minnesota-native households?

Mr. BALLOU. Again, you are using the phrase “Minnesota-native households” but the majority—

Mr. GILL. The number—the number is 18 percent. That is quite an astounding difference, I think we—

Mr. BALLOU. Can I answer the question, please?

Mr. GILL. Let me ask you one more, and then we can go on to that. What percentage of Somali-headed households are on welfare in general?

Mr. BALLOU. I do not know.

Mr. GILL. It is 81 percent. What about—let me just ask you, after ten years of being in the United States, what percentage of Somali immigrant households continue to be on welfare?

Mr. BALLOU. I do not know.

Mr. GILL. The number is 78 percent. So, even after ten years, 78 percent of Somali immigrant households continue to be on welfare. Do you know what that number is for native Minnesota-headed households?

Mr. BALLOU. Again, you are using—

Mr. GILL. Non-Somali immigrant headed households.

Mr. BALLOU. If I could just to answer the question.

Mr. GILL. Go for it.

Mr. BALLOU. You are using the phrase “native” Minnesotans. The majority of Somali Minnesotans are as Minnesotan as any of us.

They were born in the United States. It is only 8,000 of the 108,000 Somali—

Mr. GILL. Nevertheless, the welfare usage is astoundingly different. Let me ask you again, does that make Minnesota stronger or weaker?

Mr. BALLOU. Again, I would like the opportunity to answer the question here.

Mr. GILL. Go for it.

Mr. BALLOU. So, again, the majority of Somalian Minnesotans are born in the United States. As I understand it—

Mr. GILL. Okay. Well, what—what percentage of—

Mr. BALLOU. Again, can I—

Mr. GILL [continuing]. Of working age Somalians, who have been in the United States for ten years or more, ten years or more, how many of them speak English very well?

Mr. BALLOU. I do not know.

Mr. GILL. About half. The answer is about half. That seems pretty low, doesn't it?

Mr. BALLOU. Again, I keep trying—

Mr. GILL. That does not sound like something that makes our country stronger to me. And I think most Americans would agree with me on that. I need to move on.

Ms. Robbins, when would you say we, concretely, knew that widespread welfare fraud was occurring in Minnesota?

Ms. ROBBINS. There have been reports since 2009 from the Office of Legislative Auditor. I would say the credible reports on childcare fraud started surfacing 2011 to 2013.

Mr. GILL. So, for over a decade.

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. GILL. When do you think Governor Walz knew about this fraud?

Ms. ROBBINS. From the very beginning. He was running for Governor in 2018 when there were prosecutions going on, when there was an OLA report, active cases in the news all the time.

Mr. GILL. And what was the Walz Administration's response?

Ms. ROBBINS. They actually did nothing when they got into office. And Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan had been on the Committee in the legislature that had hearings on childcare fraud. And, when they got into office, they did put \$5 million into—a little more money, but nothing changed.

Mr. GILL. But nothing—and let me ask you, Mr. Hudson—thank you for being here. Did those who commit this fraud, do they typically vote for Republicans or Democrats, in your opinion?

Mr. HUDSON. In my opinion—thank you for qualifying like that—I would say they most definitely overwhelmingly vote for Democrats.

Mr. GILL. Do they typically donate to Republicans or Democrats?

Mr. HUDSON. Not to my knowledge. They—

Mr. GILL. In your opinion?

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. Do not donate to Republicans; they donate to Democrats, in my opinion, yes.

Mr. GILL. Yes. So, would you say the Somali population is an important demographic for Democrats to win over politically?

Mr. HUDSON. Unquestionably.

Mr. GILL. Got it. And do you think it would have hurt Democrats' political standing with the Somali population to investigate this fraud?

Mr. HUDSON. Very clearly.

Mr. GILL. Got it. So, in other words, you are saying that there was a political incentive to cover up widespread Somali fraud. Is that right?

Mr. HUDSON. 100 percent.

Mr. GILL. Let me ask all three of you, did the Walz Administration and Democrats intentionally, in your opinion, overlook this fraud, while it was happening, for political gain? I will start with you, Ms. Robbins.

Ms. ROBBINS. Absolutely. We have credible whistleblower reports that the Department of Human Services Administration up to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Commissioner met with a group called the Minnesota Minority Child Care Association multiple times and that they were trying to weaken protections. We wanted—

Mr. GILL. Right.

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. We had several changes we wanted to do, and they opposed all of them.

Mr. GILL. And Mr. Hudson and Ms. Rarick, and then my time is up.

Mr. HUDSON. I would agree.

Ms. RARICK. Absolutely. The whistleblowers confirm it.

Mr. GILL. Got it. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Ranking Member Garcia.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you.

I just want to clarify one thing. I just want to be very clear that a vast majority of those Somali Minnesotans are United States citizens. And Somali Americans have as much right to access those services or any Somalis as United States Members of Congress. They have the same right to access services, and we are talking about U.S. citizens.

Let me also just clarify, Mr. Hudson, you said in your opening remarks that I had said that no fraud exists, and I think—you can feel free to run the tape. That is not exactly not what I said. What I have been talking about, which is important for us to remember, is that wherever fraud exists, we should take it on. And we should hold folks accountable. And, when people commit fraud and people get hurt, there is going to be repercussions as there should be. We can all agree to that.

We want to hold fraudsters accountable and want to protect the victims and innocent people so those that can access services and continue to access services across this country. That is how it should work.

But we also know that is not how it should work according to President Trump. Now, let us actually talk about real fraud and some fraudsters. Now, we all know that, recently, here in Florida, President Trump granted a get-out-of-jail-free pardon to Philip Esformes. Now, Mr. Esformes is a nursing home mogul convicted of schemes to defraud Medicare and Medicaid of \$1.3 billion. Where is that hearing? This guy just did not steal from taxpayers. He took

advantage of thousands of people, admitting them to nursing homes and living facilities that could not help them.

His network of doctors gave out dangerous and harmful treatments and prescribing opioids to drug addicts just to make more money. In 2019, when Esformes was sentenced, Trump's own DOJ issued a press release that quoted "The man behind one of the biggest healthcare frauds in history will be spending 20 years in prison"—20 years in prison the DOJ said. Just 14 months later, Donald Trump let him walk free with a pardon.

In October of this year, on his 56th birthday, Esformes was arrested on domestic violence charges.

Let us look at another case, another Trump case. Joseph Schwartz, he was sentenced for taking advantage of nursing home residents and workers and defrauding the government of \$38 million. Where is that hearing? Schwartz paid lobbyists almost a million to secure a pardon from the President, and it worked. In November of this last year, a full and unconditional pardon was granted by President Trump for this enormous amount of fraud.

Now, let us look at Paul Walczak, a tax cheat whose crimes cost taxpayers almost \$1.1 billion, dwarfing what we are talking about today, as he made lavish purchases like a \$1 million luxury yacht. Now, Mr. Walczak was supposed to spend 18 months in prison, a fraudster who we want to go after. He should have been held accountable for his crimes. And he was supposed to pay \$4.4 million back to the taxpayers.

While this pardon application was pending, his mom was invited to a \$1 million per person candlelight dinner at Mar-a-Lago with President Trump. She attended, and less than three weeks later, her son received a full and unconditional pardon.

Now, I am assuming that our witnesses here today would think this is horrific fraud and would disagree with these pardons. I would like to just—do you agree with this pardon? I would like to begin with our witnesses.

Ms. ROBBINS. Sir, I have not looked at the facts of the case or the law. So, I cannot make a statement on that.

Mr. GARCIA. You cannot make a statement on these pardons. You have not read anything about them in the news, apparently.

Ms. ROBBINS. I have not.

Mr. GARCIA. These are pardons to criminals and fraudsters that our witnesses clearly have no interest in.

Now, in Trump's America, rich people can rip innocent people off whenever they want and get a pardon. And the answer to fraud here is to cutoff benefits to innocent people. Most of these folks are innocent people and kids who just need their services.

Donald Trump's decision to freeze \$10 billion in social services funding to five states does not hold criminals accountable. It hurts the very people who are harmed by fraud in the first place.

Mr. Ballou, just finally, you are from Minnesota yourself. How are Minnesotans on the ground being hurt by Trump's political retribution crusade?

Mr. BALLOU. Well, the practical effect is that the pause on payments for childcare services and Medicaid services are going to result in hundreds of thousands of the neediest Minnesotans being denied, in some cases, literally lifesaving payments.

Mr. GARCIA. And, also, as we have been discussing here, there is a large, of course, immigrant community, a community that makes Minnesota stronger. Can you tell us how innocent people in the Somali community are being directly harmed?

Mr. BALLOU. Well, you hear about the threats that are happening against the Somali community. You are hearing about the broad demonization that is happening against them in the media generally. I think, you know, just, I know we are running out of time here. But, you know, if you look at the statistics, I believe it is 82 Somali Americans have been indicted so far out of 108,000 Somali Minnesotans in the state overall. That is something like a 0.07 percent criminal rate. You know, when you compare that to one-third of all Americans have a criminal record, and I think it is 40 percent, or approximately, of white men under the age of 23 have been arrested, I do not think the statistics really compare.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, sir. And I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, the House Majority Whip Emmer, Representatives Finstad, Fischbach, and Stauber of Minnesota are waived on to the Committee for purpose of questioning the witnesses at today's hearing.

Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes—

Mrs. LUNA. I seek recognition to make two motions for subpoenas.

Chairman COMER. I was going to recognize the Whip, but if you have a motion, or—state your?

Mrs. LUNA. I would like to make a motion to subpoena Neville Singham, a U.S. billionaire with reported ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), that has been funding extremist organizations, fueling division and civil unrest in this country, especially regarding the ICE riots last summer. As well as, I would like to make a motion to subpoena the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) CEO Jonathan Greenblatt for stifling free speech by listing the phrase "America First" as hate speech and Turning Point USA as a hate group.

Chairman COMER. The motion has been made. The Committee will hold this motion in abeyance until the end of the Committee hearing. The Committee will now proceed with today's hearing.

Mr. LYNCH. Point of order, Mr. Chairman. Will we get a written copy of that? Because that was a lot to go through.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Yes. We will make—we will work with Representative Luna and get a copy.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. All right. The Chair now recognizes the Majority Whip from Minnesota, Mr. Emmer.

Mr. EMMER. Thank you, Chairman Comer, for holding this important hearing.

As I said on Monday, good riddance to Governor Walz. But he cannot escape accountability for the estimated \$9 billion in fraud. How did this happen, and where the hell has the Twin Cities media been? The *Star Tribune* is complicit. They have had this story for years, if you just heard, and they refused to report anything on it. In fact, they continue to try and cover up. Our Min-

nesota Republican colleagues have demanded answers and accountability for years but have seen nothing from Walz, his Administration, our Democrat colleagues like Tina Smith, Amy Klobuchar, Ilhan Omar, and Angie Craig, or the worthless *Star Tribune*. Thank God for President Donald J. Trump for finally bringing attention to this issue.

Representative Rarick, I am going to begin with you. You have been working on this issue for years. You have spoken to the whistleblowers personally. Is that correct?

Ms. RARICK. That is correct.

Mr. EMMER. You have an understanding that 1,000 whistleblowers running an account on X have come forward to expose fraud in Minnesota state agencies, and they have been entirely ignored by Tim Walz and have even been retaliated against. Is that accurate?

Ms. RARICK. That is correct. Even this morning, I got another message.

Mr. EMMER. Well, in your experience, are their claims credible or are they politically motivated against Walz?

Ms. RARICK. They are completely credible, not politically motivated.

Mr. EMMER. In fact, many of these are Walz Administration employees, correct?

Ms. RARICK. They are actually Democrats as well.

Mr. EMMER. Can you quickly give us one example of the retaliation these folks have been facing?

Ms. RARICK. Yes, I can. In my opening statement, I mentioned that the most severe ones was that they would be fired with cause so they could not have unemployment insurance, that they would be blacklisted from all state agencies, and I would bet that it is also Hennepin County and Ramsey County. As you know, those are Democrat run. And much, much more.

Mr. EMMER. Based on what you have learned, Representative, over the last several years, do you have any doubt that Governor Tim Walz knew about this fraud as it was occurring?

Ms. RARICK. He absolutely knew that it was occurring.

Mr. EMMER. Thank you. The Housing Stability Services Program was estimated to cost about \$2.6 million per year. But before it was shut down last October, it was on track to run about \$122 million in 2025. In fact, I think they sucked \$161 million out of it from the point it started in 2020 until it was finally shut down. Isn't that correct?

Ms. RARICK. That is correct. And Joe Thompson believes that 90 percent of that was fraud.

Mr. EMMER. Yes. The Quality "Leering" Center, as uncovered by Nick Shirley, received almost \$10 million in funding. Is that accurate?

Ms. RARICK. I believe it is.

Mr. EMMER. There are more than 80 autism centers in Minnesota under investigation. Is that true?

Ms. RARICK. I believe it is, yes.

Mr. EMMER. It is clear that someone is criminally complicit. You cannot just let this amount of money get out of your administration over a period of seven years without knowing. There was a hearing

in the state regarding the fraudulent Housing Stabilization Program, but before that hearing, Governor Walz fired the official who was slated to testify so that they could not testify and expose what was happening under Governor Walz's watch. Has Governor Walz or Attorney General Ellison fired anyone else, to your knowledge, Representative?

Ms. RARICK. Not to my knowledge. And that was Eric Grumdahl. And his Administration believes that he was—he was not fired. But I say he was fired because it was too convenient.

Mr. EMMER. Right. Representative Hudson, is it true that 90 percent of the individuals charged, regardless of what your colleague on the panel just said with his facts and figures, 90 percent of the individuals charged or indicted with the \$250 million Feeding Our Future COVID fraud are of Somali descent?

Mr. HUDSON. I believe that to be correct.

Mr. EMMER. Are you aware that, in a 2021 video, Mr. Ellison promised that he would obstruct his own agencies in their investigation of Somali fraud?

Mr. HUDSON. I am very much aware of that.

Mr. EMMER. It is no wonder that criminals in the Somali community felt they were free to steal taxpayer dollars. I am going to ask you the same question I asked Marion. Do you have any doubt that Tim Walz knew about this fraud as it was occurring?

Mr. HUDSON. None whatsoever.

Mr. EMMER. Walz and Ellison were protecting fraudsters instead of investigating them, and it was purposeful. And it is no coincidence that this is occurring largely in the Somali community. Walz made a sanctuary state—Minnesota a sanctuary state. He gave free healthcare, free college, and free licenses to illegals. And Walz looked the other way when Somali immigrants were stealing. Representative Robbins, do you have any doubt that Tim Walz knew about this fraud as it was occurring?

Ms. ROBBINS. None whatsoever.

Mr. EMMER. So, all three of you have no doubt in your minds that Tim Walz knew about the \$9 billion of fraud during his tenure as Governor and did nothing about it.

It looks like my time is about to expire. And I do want to say to all of you, on behalf of Minnesota, thank you for being here. And justice will be served.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Thank you, Mr. Whip.

The Chair now recognizes Ms. Norton from Washington, D.C.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Federal assistance programs are vital for keeping working families afloat and children healthy. Nearly 25 percent of adults and nearly 50 percent of children rely on Federal assistance, including childcare funding, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Fraudsters targeting government programs have a uniquely harmful impact on Americans. They deprive taxpayers of efficient use of their funds, deprive intended recipients and sometimes the most vulnerable groups in our society of the services and assistance they are eligible for. And they reduce the public trust in government.

But answers to fraud is not to freeze critical safety net programs and cause more suffering for Americans who are already struggling to afford everyday expenses. I have worked with my colleagues on the Government Operations Subcommittee on ways that Federal agencies can identify and prevent fraud before payments are made. My Oversight Committee Democrat colleagues and I are also proud cosponsors of congressional Min's Taxpayer Funds Oversight Accountability Act. This legislation would strengthen the ability of Federal agencies to reliably track Federal funds enabling more efficient analysis to identify and stop fraudsters. We can continue to reduce fraud and protect funding from bad actors by empowering oversight bodies like Inspectors General and Government Accountability Office, which are often best equipped to investigate red flags and sound the alarm when there are problems to address. Applying additional safeguards requires a balanced approach that does not pull the rug out from under people, including children, who rely on help these programs provide.

Congress must not allow partisan actors to seize on the misdeeds of a few in order to gut the vital programs that provide access to Federal healthcare and special education services, keep American children fed, and keep American parents to work with the knowledge that their children are safe. And I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back.

The Chair now recognizes Mr. Jordan from Ohio.

Mr. JORDAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Hudson, who is Salim Said and Aimee Bock?

Mr. HUDSON. I recognize those names as defendants in the Feeding Our Future trial.

Mr. JORDAN. They ran Feeding Our Future. Is that right?

Mr. HUDSON. That is correct.

Mr. JORDAN. And they have been indicted?

Mr. HUDSON. That is correct.

Mr. JORDAN. They have been convicted?

Mr. HUDSON. That is correct.

Mr. JORDAN. And they are in jail waiting sentences. Is that right?

Mr. HUDSON. As I understand it.

Mr. JORDAN. Okay. I want to go back, because earlier with Mr. Gill you said that they overlook the fraud. I think it is worse than that. I think they helped it along. I am going to go to this meeting that took place—actually, I want to go to March 30, 2021. Is it true back in March 2021, the Minnesota Department of Education suspended payments to Feeding Our Future? To that program? Is that right?

Mr. HUDSON. I believe that is correct.

Mr. JORDAN. And then, a month later, they resumed payments.

Mr. HUDSON. That is correct.

Mr. JORDAN. What caused them to change their mind?

Mr. HUDSON. In my opinion, what caused them to change their mind was pushback from their constituency within the Somali community who accused the state agencies of being racist.

Mr. JORDAN. But what caused them to stop it in the first place? Was it whistleblowers coming forward? Was it, like, something is not right here? What happened?

Mr. HUDSON. Apologize for the misunderstanding. The reason they stopped the funds in the first place is because they had credible allegations that there was fraud taking place.

Mr. JORDAN. From whistleblowers and others?

Mr. HUDSON. Correct.

Mr. JORDAN. They were just doing their job, looking at—this does not make sense. We got all these programs, no one is getting fed, yet money is going out the door like crazy. So, they suspended it. And then they started it back up, right? Was there any threat of a lawsuit from the Somali community and folks affiliated with Feeding Our Future?

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Jordan, there was more than a threat. They actually did.

Mr. JORDAN. They did? And what was the alleged claim in that lawsuit?

Mr. HUDSON. That they were victims of racial discrimination.

Mr. JORDAN. Oh. They played the race card, huh? All this fraud going on, money going out, and they played the race card.

Now, when I talked about not just overlooking it, there was a meeting that took place between the Attorney General and affiliates of Feeding Our Future. Is that right?

Mr. HUDSON. That is correct.

Mr. JORDAN. And what happened at that meeting? Do we know?

Mr. HUDSON. Yes, we do, because we have it on tape. There was an audio recording made at that meeting that was entered into evidence in the Feeding Our Future trial, and it was later revealed, through work from *Center of the American Experiment*, the full recording. And my observations of what took place in that meeting was that Attorney General Keith Ellison was focused on one thing and one thing only, and that was keeping these folks in business. There were no questions that he asked of these folks about how the kids are doing, the operation, how they are getting fed, who is being helped. Instead, the focus was entirely on ensuring that the money continues to flow. And I will add that he went so far as to say that he was going to fight these people, in reference to the state agencies. The state agencies are his client.

Mr. JORDAN. Yes. And, when you said money is going to flow, did money flow to Mr. Ellison's campaign a couple weeks later from some of the folks who were in that meeting?

Mr. HUDSON. Sure did.

Mr. JORDAN. Do we know how much that was?

Mr. HUDSON. I do not have that number.

Mr. JORDAN. So, it was not just—was not just overlooking the fraud. They were actively trying to make sure this program continued, and then they benefited from that politically with contribution to their campaign, all in this same year, all in 2021, when this was all coming to a head. Is that accurate?

Mr. HUDSON. That is my understanding.

Mr. JORDAN. And this fraud is much bigger than this because, as I look, it is just about—it is, like, six different Federal agencies. Department of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Small Business Association, Housing Urban Development, Department of Labor, Department of Agriculture, in this program and a bunch of others, they were shaking down the entire Federal Gov-

ernment, it looked like. Six different Federal agencies over, I think you pointed out, over the last 15 years?

Mr. HUDSON. That is correct.

Mr. JORDAN. And not only are the Administration, the Democrat Administration, overlooking it, they are helping it along. They are assisting it. They are going after whistleblowers, as your colleague pointed out, and they are benefiting from all this politically with contributions to their campaign, not to mention the voting issue that you referenced earlier as well. Is that all accurate?

Mr. HUDSON. I believe so.

Mr. JORDAN. Oh. Now there are more than six agencies involved. There are six Federal agencies that got shaken down, but there is two other agencies involved now, the FBI and the DOJ. Right? How many people have been indicted now?

Mr. HUDSON. I do not have that number in front of me, but it is significant.

Mr. JORDAN. And I do not know how long y'all been in the legislature. We appreciate your work, appreciate what you do. But have you ever seen anything like this in your time in the—I have never seen anything like this in—Ms. Robbins, you are the Chair.

Ms. ROBBINS. No, sir. We have never seen anything on this scale. It is unbelievable. As Joe Thompson said, it is breathtaking and cannot be overstated.

Mr. JORDAN. Yes. Well, God bless you all. Ms. Rarick, I will give you the last word.

Ms. RARICK. Thank you. So, I have been there since 2013, and I have been yelled at by Democrats over and over again throughout our time there to say that “there is no fraud; this is just made up.”

Mr. JORDAN. Yes. This is the template. You see this all the time. The left will tell a lie—“We are feeding kids,” when they are not—when they are just shaking down the taxpayer. The left will tell a lie. The media will report the lie or not report when the truth comes out. And then, when you tell the truth, they call you a racist. It is as old as time. We see it all the time. This is so long—God bless you all for coming forward and getting the facts to the people in Minnesota and, more importantly, to the people of this great county. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Lynch from Massachusetts.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to be clear that fraud is unacceptable at any level. However, I did have an opportunity to spend the day with a bunch of my kids in my district at my local Head Start center in Quincy, the Wahlberg Center, and they actually are able to feed those kids breakfast, lunch, and a snack for \$6 a day.

And I just want to say, from this Committee, this investigative Committee, if we are really looking for fraud, if we are truly looking for fraud, in addition to all the cases that Mr. Ballou listed, we do not need to go far. I can even suggest the address: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. If we are looking for fraud in this country, that is a great place to start. That is a gold mine for looking for fraud.

And I will just give one example. You know, you do not have to go back in time very far to see a great example of the fraud that

has been put upon this country. Last month, President Trump put his name on the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

For those of you who are too young to remember, JFK was a war hero, from my state. He was an Irish Catholic, first Catholic elected President. Fought a lot of bigotry during his time trying to become President. He actually stood up to the Russians.

But he was a war hero, a decorated war hero. He is the only United States President to ever have received the Purple Heart. He also received the Medal of Valor from the Navy and the Marine Corps because during World War II he was commanding a PT boat, PT 109; his vessel was struck by a destroyer in the South Pacific, and he actually risked his life to save his crew members.

And after he was assassinated, LBJ, Lyndon Baines Johnson, his successor, and the U.S. Congress at that time recognized his service and sacrifice to this country by naming the performing arts center after him.

He had raised most of the money to build that center, he and Jacqueline Kennedy.

And it is shameful, it is—it is a case of stolen valor for this President to put his name above the name of John F. Kennedy. That is a fraud being perpetrated on this country right now. And if we are really interested in rooting out fraud, how about starting right there? I have legislation that will take Trump's name off that building and restore it.

You know, Congress acknowledged Kennedy's service and sacrifice to our country. He sacrificed everything—everything—for this country. And yet we have allowed this to happen and we have allowed that fraud, that valor to be stolen from John F. Kennedy. It is wrong. It is wrong.

And while I know Trump has his supporters and his minions and there is no depth to the shame that they will stoop to—but we, as Americans, should defend—defend—the history, defend the goodness that has been done by previous leaders.

It is ironic that Jacqueline Kennedy actually established the White House Historical Society, and she did so in a manner that she said, we should honor every President within the White House regardless of party but because of the service and the sacrifice that they have made on behalf of our country.

That is a much different sentiment that is held at the White House today, when you see the shameful plaques that have been put up by this President denigrating previous Presidents and their service to this country.

So, I hope my colleagues will join me in that legislation to restore the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and eliminate this fraud, glaring fraud, that is being perpetrated on the American people.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Byron Donalds from the great State of Florida.

Mr. DONALDS. Thank you, Chairman.

Before I begin, I have a letter to submit for the record, titled "Collective Request for congressional Oversight. Systematic Retaliation in Governance: Failure at the Minnesota Department of Human Services."

Chairman, this letter was written by the whistleblowers and has been provided to the Committee. I want to submit that for the record.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. DONALDS. Ms. Rarick, first of all, thank you for your service to the State of Minnesota.

I want to refer back to your commentary about a meeting where the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Minnesota, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, came and admonished these whistleblowers.

Can you go into more detail about what was said in this meeting?

Ms. RARICK. Thank you, Mr. Congressman.

So, I do not have any more detail other than what I read into the record, unfortunately. It was obviously a public meeting, and there were hundreds of DHS employees—so Department of Human Services employees—there. It was a story that has been reported multiple times on the X page, but I do not have any more details than that, other than the fact that that was not the only time that she retaliated.

Mr. DONALDS. Do you think that the Lieutenant Governor was operating outside of the purview of Governor Walz?

Ms. RARICK. So, it is interesting, the timing, and it was before he ran as the Vice President. And so, she was completely almost tied at the hip with Governor Walz at that time in history.

Mr. DONALDS. I think it is important for people to understand that in virtually every state in the country the Lieutenant Governor is essentially chosen by the Governor. And so, Lieutenant Governors typically do not operate outside of the purview of the Governor. It is kind of their job to, you know, play QB2, if you will, to the Governor.

So, would it be—would it be clear to state that the Lieutenant Governor's comments trying to railroad whistleblowers, trying to demean whistleblowers and discourage whistleblowers was at the directive of Governor Walz?

Ms. RARICK. You can definitely assume that, because, like I said, at that moment in time, up until the point where the Governor ran for VP, she was seen at literally every press conference, she was in all the meetings, they were tied at the hip, they were always together. So, if she was saying it, he had approved it; I am certain of it.

Mr. DONALDS. Well, I guess you could say she is kind of a knucklehead too.

Moving on, the list of programs in the fraud in Minnesota are rampant. You have the Child Care Assistance Program. You have the Feeding Our Future. You have a housing—the Housing Stabilization Services. You have the Early Intensive Development and Behavioral Intervention. You have Integrated Community Supports.

Ms. Robbins, you are the Chair of the investigative committee. The depth of fraud that you have seen, were there controls in place in the State of Minnesota that could have prevented this fraud? And were these controls ignored by the Walz Administration and by the Department of Human Services?

Ms. ROBBINS. Absolutely.

So, we have many whistleblower reports talking about how DHS undermined ability to strengthen internal controls.

So, for example, there was an effort for the Child Care Assistance Program—they have a “clear and convincing evidence” standard to disqualify someone from being a provider, where all the other programs are a lower standard, “preponderance of the evidence.” There was an effort to make this a lower standard, so it was easier to disqualify people, to “preponderance.” And the Minnesota Minority Childcare Association, which was run by a group of Somali providers, opposed it, and DHS went along with their recommendation.

And in a similar vein, we were trying to reduce the number of childcare employees with children that could work in these childcare centers, because that was one of the vectors of fraud—

Mr. DONALDS. Right.

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. And they opposed that.

Mr. DONALDS. So, you have the Somali community who on purpose was petitioning the State of Minnesota to lower the standards—lower the standards to be able to make sure that fraud could not be caught. Is that correct?

Ms. ROBBINS. Well, they wanted to keep the standard “clear and convincing,” which makes it harder to disqualify people. So—

Mr. DONALDS. So, it makes it harder for them to be disqualified from wasting taxpayer funds. Is that correct?

Ms. ROBBINS. Absolutely.

Mr. DONALDS. Okay.

Ms. Robbins, I want to stay with you. I want to talk about use of funds. You have talked about, some of these funds were used to buy property in Kenya?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. DONALDS. Property in Turkey? Do I have that correct?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes.

Mr. DONALDS. Remittances back to Somalia?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes.

Mr. DONALDS. I think it is important for the Committee to understand that these remittances, in part, are used in what is called the “hawala”—I want to make sure I have the terminology right—the “hawala network.”

Ms. Robbins, can you speak to what the hawala network is?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. So, it is an informal network where someone brings—goes to a hawala place in Minneapolis, which is like a money exchange or a money sending site, and they say, “I want to send X amount of dollars,” and then there is a receiving site in Somalia, and they put the cash—take the cash out. So, money does not cross the border. It is an order for money here that gets transmitted to Somalia.

Mr. DONALDS. For the time, because I am out of time, I want to expound.

In Somalia and other parts in the Middle East, in the Middle East region writ large, a hawala network is a bunch of money exchangers, hand to hand, not bank account to bank account.

Ms. ROBBINS. Exactly.

Mr. DONALDS. And what is clear in Somalia and other parts is that Al Shabaab, the largest al-Qaida affiliate in Somalia, they

have their hands all through this network. So, taxpayer money, United States dollars that are being remitted into Somalia, in part have been utilized or have fell into the hands of Al Shabaab.

Do you think that is a correct assessment?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. We have plenty of evidence of that, from money directly going to Al Shabaab, but then also indirectly because they take a cut of whatever gets sent to Somalia.

Mr. DONALDS. Thank you so much.

Chairman, I know I am over. Thank you for your—for the additional time. I yield back.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I seek recognition for a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Pressley.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record a December 2025 article from the *Minnesota Star Tribune*, titled “Contrary to Trump’s Claims, Somalis Add \$8 Billion to Minnesota’s Economy.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Ro Khanna from California.

Mr. KHANNA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, fraud, waste, and abuse is not a partisan issue. FDR, in 1932, with the New Deal, railed against inefficiencies and fraud and waste in state and local government. I want to be clear, many in the Democratic Party stand against the misappropriation or misuse of taxpayer dollars.

The reality is, as a progressive Democrat, I believe the ultra-wealthy should pay more, but I want that money going for the healthcare, the childcare, and the education of the American people. It offends me if there is waste or fraud in any of our states.

That is why I called for people in my State of California to share stories of inefficiencies, fraud, or wasteful spending. I partnered with the “All-In” podcast to advertise that we need to be responsible stewards of our tax dollars.

And I believe we should be doing this for all 50 states. I challenge my colleagues on the Republican side: Let us have an audit of all 50 states to make sure that government money is being spent wisely.

We do not need to make these partisan hearings. Every American has a stake in making sure that they have a receipt for where their tax dollars are going. Every American has a stake, if we are going to ask them to pay tax, to make sure that that money is not being wasted.

And I would like to see this Committee work together to stand up for basic fairness of the American taxpayers. I certainly am going to do that in the State of California, and we should be doing that in all 50 states.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Thank you, Representative Khanna. And I believe you are sincere, and we want to work with you on fraud in any state. If it is a Republican state, Democratic state, we do not care. The mission of this Committee is to root out waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and we would gladly work with you.

Mr. KHANNA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Yes, sir.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Biggs from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. I have a UC request.

Chairman COMER. Proceed.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you.

The first one is, "Arizona Has Recovered Just five percent of Taxpayer Dollars Lost in a \$2.5 Billion Medicaid Fraud Scheme."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. BIGGS. And I will save the rest for the future. No, I have got a bunch of more, but not right now, Mr. Chair.

Chairman COMER. Okay. All right.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Thank you.

I will—the Chair recognizes myself for 5 minutes of questioning.

Yesterday, Minnesota's Office of the Legislative Auditor published an audit of the state's Department of Human Services' Behavioral Health Administration grants. I would like to enter that report and its cover letter into the record.

Without objection, so ordered.

The cover letter of this report states, quote, "However, during the course of our audit, we identified a number of documents that the Behavioral Health Administration either backdated or created after our audit happened," end quote.

It sounds like Governor Tim Walz's Department of Human Services may have been fabricating evidence by creating documentation after the fact to mislead voters—to mislead auditors.

This new report noted that one grantee who received nearly \$680,000 from this agency for one month's work but could not provide any documentation or proof that any work was actually completed.

What is more—and this is the kicker—the report notes that the grant manager who approved this money left the agency within days of approving the grant to take a job with the very same grantee that they approved money for.

So, very quickly, Representative Robbins, have you ever seen anything like this in your time as a member of the Minnesota Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy Committee?

Ms. ROBBINS. We have heard whistleblower reports of backdating and falsification before. And we also have a record of earlier in the CCAP, the childcare fraud, where they would allow the providers to submit records far after the investigation and accept them as true.

So, clearly, this has been a pattern at the agency, and it is unacceptable.

Chairman COMER. Unbelievable.

And we want to work with you; we want to work with these whistleblowers. We are serious about this. The Trump Administration is on the ground. We want to catch these people, and we want to put them behind bars. And we want to hold any politician that participated in these schemes accountable.

Representative Hudson, who is to blame for this dysfunction?

Mr. HUDSON. Well, the blame can go around quite a bit, but, as Tim Walz himself said, the buck stops with him.

Chairman COMER. Representative Robbins, do you have any examples of how the Walz Administration blocked investigators from moving forward with high-priority fraud investigations?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, we do, Mr. Chairman. I have met with whistleblowers and gotten documents from them about how, after the original CCAP whistleblower report came out in March and April of 2019, subsequent to that, there was an Office of Inspector General within DHS that had investigative authority to do surveillance, warrants, and seize electronics, and they were shut down. They were told they could no longer do criminal investigations. They were told they could no longer meet with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agents that were assigned to them without supervisor's approval.

And, instead, when they found—one of the other members talked about how they changed the language. They went from calling it “fraud” to calling it “overbilling.” And they created an overbilling committee to—all the investigative agents now could not do criminal investigations, and they had to flag issues of overbilling, and then a committee would decide if any of that overbilling would be recouped.

Chairman COMER. A committee by—appointed by Walz?

Ms. ROBBINS. No, appointed within DHS.

Chairman COMER. Oh, appointed by their own bureaucracy?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. So, they shut down criminal investigations. They created a committee to call it overbilling and decide if overbilling investigations would even try to recoup the money.

Chairman COMER. So, this is evidence that Tim Walz interfered with investigators who knew there was fraud. The rumors of fraud have been taking place—I have been hearing them for a decade. And yet, he interfered to try to obstruct their investigation of fraud.

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. His agency shut down criminal investigations.

Chairman COMER. Representative Hudson, we did not get \$9 billion stolen overnight. How did the fraud in Minnesota become so widespread?

Mr. HUDSON. Well, listen, let me give the maximum benefit of the doubt that these programs were designed for a beneficial legislative intent.

Chairman COMER. Of course.

Mr. HUDSON. The way that it happened was, when people recognized that the system was not working and they raised those concerns, those concerns were ignored. And a culture suppressing raising those concerns was fostered by the Walz Administration.

Chairman COMER. So, obviously, there was a lack of oversight by the Walz Administration.

Why would Governor Walz let \$9 billion in fraud occur, Mr. Hudson?

Mr. HUDSON. In my opinion, because it was politically beneficial to Democrats. Again, the Somali community is a huge constituency group, and we have had some tight races in Minnesota, and it makes a difference for them.

Chairman COMER. Because it is a huge part of the Democrat voting base in Minnesota. Is that correct?

Mr. HUDSON. Correct.

Chairman COMER. Representative Rarick, Governor Walz's announcement not to seek a third term seems to be an admission of guilt, I think, to most Americans and an attempt by the Democrat establishment to cover up his role in the rampant fraud. He claims this is so he can focus on "defending the people of Minnesota against criminals who prey on our generosity."

As someone who has been in the Minnesota legislature longer than Tim Walz has been Governor, can Governor Walz actually be trusted to defend Minnesotans, when he allowed fraud to fester for his entire tenure as Governor?

Ms. RARICK. Mr. Chairman, if Governor Walz was serious about stopping fraud, he would have done it in 2019 when he took office. He has done nothing other than appoint commissioners that suppressed fraud and retaliated against their own employees.

Chairman COMER. And just think, this man was almost elected Vice President of the United States. This was the pick for the sitting Vice President of the United States to be the next Vice President of the United States. This is unbelievable.

If people are not held accountable, if people do not go to jail for this, this will continue, not just in Minnesota but other states.

And we are going to do everything we can on this Committee to work with you all and every whistleblower in Minnesota and any other of the 49 states who wants to come forward to expose waste, fraud, and abuse. We are going to work with you and eliminate it and hold people accountable.

The Chair now recognizes Mr. Mfume? Is that right?

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Chairman, I just have a UC request.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Go ahead.

Ms. ANSARI. The first one is from the American Immigration Council: "Immigrants Contribute Billions to Federal and State Taxes Each Year"; as well as, "Immigrants Do Not Commit More Crimes in the United States, Despite Fearmongering."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair now recognizes Mr. Mfume from Maryland.

Mr. MFUME. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I want to thank you and the Ranking Member for bringing us together on this today.

I have a request for unanimous consent to enter into the record a letter from James Clark, the Inspector General of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, directed to the Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Committee of the House of Representatives in Minnesota, requesting information on the alleged 700 tips that have been received.

I would like to enter that with unanimous consent, Mr. Chair.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Chair, I know we are up against the clock. Many of us are trying to get to the special briefings on the action that has taken place in Venezuela, and so we are leaving one by one. I do want to try to get a couple things in before I have to depart also.

I want to thank you again. As Ranking Member of this Committee's Subcommittee on Government Operations, it has been my focus to combat waste, fraud, and abuse within the Federal Government for the last 3-1/2 years.

Regardless of what side you are on, what side of the aisle or what you believe, as has been stated, everybody should be against fraud. It requires our collective attention to address the issue and to minimize the consequences that we are seeing that are taking place—not minimize the consequences to the perpetrators, but minimize the hurt to taxpayers in this country.

As the Ranking Member of that Committee [sic], we have committed ourselves to fight this full and necessary issue over and over again. And I believe that, from most of the people I have heard, we are all in concurrence that stealing from taxpayers is the wrong thing, period.

Now, the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Mr. Sessions, and I—who is the Chairman of that Subcommittee—have been working together on a bipartisan basis to create a congressional scorecard to assess the progress of key government spending programs in reducing fraud and improper payments, both through the Federal Government and through states.

Additionally, through the American Rescue Plan Act, Congress has provided funding for the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) as well as the Pandemic Analytic Center of Excellence to deter, detect, and prevent fraud across multiple state agencies and multiple Federal agencies. I have also co-led several bills here in the House that address that type of fraud.

Congress should defend these programs that seek to find a way to root out this problem, and we need to do that in a bipartisan, nonpartisan way.

The Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency, in their report a year and a half ago to the Congress and to the President, found that every dollar spent on the Office of Inspectors General—as a result, \$26 was saved for every \$1 that was spent.

Now, that is a return on investment that taxpayers deserve. And, unfortunately, the Trump Administration illegally defunded CIGIE last year. And I have joined with my colleagues, several of whom on this Committee, in leading several letters to oppose that unlawful set of firings of Inspector Generals.

I urge this Administration, again, and my colleagues to restore the congressionally designated funding to CIGIE and the Offices of Inspectors General so that we might be able to continue the work necessary to combat waste, fraud, and abuse.

Before I yield, I want to thank Mr. Ro Khanna for his comments that this issue should be nonpartisan, that when we make it something other than that, we take away from our ability to bring about change and we in some sort of way chip away at the, sort of, belief that the public has that we are really serious about doing something here.

So, it was concerning to me, also, to have heard some of the xenophobia that began earlier in this hearing, Mr. Chairman—differences, differences versus similarities. And when we do that, we create the problems that we always are trying to do away with.

Asking witnesses to give their opinion of Somalis as a general group of Americans; asking witnesses their opinion, “Do you think they vote for Democrats? Do you think they just give money to Democrats?”; asking their opinion, “What is your opinion of Somalians? What is your”—we might as well say, “What is your opinion

of Jews? What is your opinion of Black people? What is your opinion of Latinos?" That sort of thing, although it may sound good and play to the issue, creates a slippery slope—I want to caution people—a slippery slope.

We heard earlier that, of over 100,000 Somalis in this country, 87 were indicted in Minnesota. That comes out to .087 percent.

Those sorts of things create, I think, the disbelief that a lot of people have that we are about doing the business that we ought to do. And it gets back to the point that the gentleman from California raised, that we have got to find a way to keep this from being partisan and to keep it from being subjective.

I would yield back, Mr. Chair.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Biggs before I go to Mr. Crane.

Mr. Biggs, you have a UC?

Mr. BIGGS. Yes. Yes, sir.

The first one is "Tim Walz Claims He Fired People Amid Fraud Scandals—But Won't Name Names."

Next one: "Walz Appointees Failed to Stop Rampant Minnesota Fraud."

Next one: "Exclusive: DHS Insider Claims Systemic Issues in Addressing Fraud."

Next one: "Here is What the Trump Administration Is Doing to Crush Minnesota's Fraud Epidemic."

Next one: "Minnesota Fraud Committee Chair Claims Walz 'Turned a Blind Eye' to Fraud Warnings for Years."

And I will yield back.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Crane, for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRANE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Grateful to have elected officials from Minnesota here today who can provide more intimate information regarding this mind-blowing fraud coming from the Somali community in Minnesota. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson, there is an estimated \$9 billion or more in fraud. Many, obviously, believe that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

I want to thank and acknowledge the independent reporters, Nick Shirley and Dave Hoch, who broke this story wide open. Today I am introducing a bill to award Nick Shirley with the congressional Medal for his explosive work in exposing astronomical fraud in Minnesota. And the reason I am doing this is because the American people are sick and tired of this, and they are sick and tired of mainstream media not covering any of it.

The biggest question that most Americans, however, have is this: Is this incompetence at the executive level with the Governor and Attorney General? Are they involved and complicit?

I am going to start with you, Ms. Robbins.

Ms. ROBBINS. Thank you, sir.

My understanding is that they were certainly aware of the fraud and they did nothing to stop it. And there were plenty of opportunities. And their commissioners and their agencies also undermined efforts to tighten internal controls.

Mr. CRANE. And, according to Ms. Rarick—I believe you said that they were actually going after whistleblowers to suppress the expose of this fraud. Is that correct?

Ms. RARICK. That is what the whistleblowers have said repeatedly.

Mr. CRANE. Thank you.

One thing that is so alarming is the reporting that many of these fraudulent companies are then donating the stolen money back to the same Democrats that are protecting them and advocate for these very programs.

Is that correct, Mr. Hudson?

Mr. HUDSON. I would agree with that statement.

Mr. CRANE. Well, we just had one of my Democrat colleagues say these are just opinions. Do you know, are these guys donating money back to Democrats?

Mr. HUDSON. Yes, they are.

Mr. CRANE. I would like to enter into the record, Mr. Chairman, an article from *Breitbart News* saying—with the title being “Data base Searches Show Somali Fraudsters Funding Democrat Politicians.”

So, these are not opinions; there is——

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. CRANE [continuing]. Actually reporting on this.

Are you guys aware—you guys are elected officials in Minnesota, right? Are you guys aware of the reporting that some of the stolen money is getting funneled back to the Islamic terror group Al Shabaab in Somalia?

Ms. Robbins?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir. And we have evidence of it going back as far as 2012, where a man was convicted of sending \$21,000 to Al Shabaab. In 2011, two Minnesota women were convicted of sending money to different groups. Someone else—we have multiple references of how the Al Shabaab takes a cut when the money gets to Somalia through the hawala network.

So, I think there is ample evidence on this—and Federal convictions.

Mr. CRANE. Yes. That is outrageous.

Obviously, one of the biggest reasons so many Americans are outraged by this massive exposure is because we generously and often foolishly allow immigrants and people into our country and then they rob the American people blind, while our debt skyrockets and the American people struggle to make ends meet.

What do you guys—are you guys hearing from your constituents the same outrage that I am hearing from mine about this issue?

Ms. ROBBINS. Minnesotans are fed up. Everywhere I go in the state, Minnesotans are so frustrated. As I said in my opening remarks, we are a highly taxed state, and they are angry that this much of their money, \$9 billion, is being absconded by criminals.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Hudson, are you just hearing from Republicans on this, or are Democrat constituents like, “Oh my god, I am struggling to put my kids in school, struggling to make ends meet, and my tax dollars are being robbed by people, and then they are sending it all over the place, and this is complete fraud. What is going on, and why hasn’t anything been done about it?”

Mr. HUDSON. I will give you a personal example. So, my family, my in-laws in particular, are politically diverse. A lot of them vote for Democrats. And they are fairly apolitical; they are not like me, all plugged in. And so, I kind of use them as a bellwether for what the people are thinking. Across the board, everybody is upset about this fraud.

Mr. CRANE. And I am guessing, when you guys bring this up, whether it is to the Walz Administration, whether it is to the AG, the number-one thing that comes back at you is, you are a racist, you are a White supremacist, or you are an Islamophobe.

As we have seen Governor Walz now trying to answer for these questions, he is doing it at the national level. Are you guys—do you guys hear the same thing at the state level as well?

Mr. HUDSON. Yes, absolutely. They always pivot to the divisive. As I stated in my opening statement, it is diversion, right? We are going to talk about personalities, we are going to talk about partisan politics, we are going to find some way to get people yelling at each other rather than looking at the problem.

Mr. CRANE. Or, like you have heard my colleagues do on this panel, it is Donald Trump, baby.

Mr. HUDSON. Yep.

Mr. CRANE. It is all about Donald Trump, right? The old pivot. We are not going to talk about what is going on in Somalia and what is—or, not going to talk about what is going on in Minnesota with this massive fraud scandal. We are going to talk about Donald Trump.

With my remaining seconds, can we play the video I have, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. Um.

Mr. CRANE. Or did we run out of time?

Chairman COMER. We did run out of time. But can we put that in the record? Would that—can we?

Mr. CRANE. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Yes.

Mr. CRANE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Thank you.

Representative Crane yields back.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Stansbury from New Mexico.

Ms. STANSBURY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And Happy New Year. Welcome to our guests. Thank you to our legislators for being here today, and to our guests.

You know, I am always—I come these to these Committee hearings; I am ready to debate the topics. I am grateful that you are bringing this case to our attention. Yes, we need to prosecute these crimes, period. Period. Let us do that.

And I am also grateful to see that this Committee is actually conducting a hearing that is in its jurisdiction, which is oversight over government fraud.

But I do have to say, to my colleague's point that was just made, that I am surprised to see the focus, given that the President of the United States and the Administration are engaged in fraudulent behavior literally daily. Including, just a few days ago, invading a foreign country, using the United States military to take their oil, and notifying oil and gas companies before the U.S. Con-

gress, and the President claiming last night that he is personally going to control the oil and give government kickbacks to oil and gas companies.

So, why are we not investigating that? It definitely gives you the impression that there is a double standard in this country.

I also want to say that I am troubled to see that this hearing is being held in conjunction with an announcement that the Administration made just yesterday that they were going to freeze \$10 billion in Federal funding for childcare and family assistance to five states across the country. And if you watched the President's crazy address yesterday, you heard him say it himself.

But I want to say one thing, because my colleagues have pointed out all about weaponizing the government for political purposes. Well, these five states happen to have one thing in common: They all have Democratic Governors and gubernatorial elections this year. Is this a coincidence? I do not think so, my friends.

And this, of course, comes after weeks of viral videos from a young-man YouTuber who was literally creeping around daycares by himself, making claims about fraud that were not there. And then the Vice President and the FBI Director were retweeting these videos without even verifying if they were true, unleashing a furor of anti-immigrant and anti-Somali hate across the country, wherein thousands of Somali people got targeted and harassed, including by the President of the United States, who literally used his platform as the President of the United States to call an entire community "garbage." He literally said that.

So, we are not "accusing" people of being xenophobic and racist. They are being xenophobic and racist, including the President of the United States. And I want to say, for one, that I stand with the Somali and the immigrant community, standing here today.

But there is a bigger policy point here, which is that this is being used as a politically expedient moment to take away the immigration status of Somalis in the United States as part of the mass deportation plan of this Administration. And it is also being used by the 2025'ers in this Administration to freeze critical programs that we know low-income families depend on and which they call part of the "woke agenda." This is part of a larger effort to defund these programs, as we are seeing across these five states.

So, I think it is important to pull back the curtain a little bit about what is actually going on in this hearing and its coordination with the Administration. That this is about, one, demonizing political opponents in Democratic states during a major election cycle; two, it is about demonizing the immigrant community to support cruel and illegal mass deportation policies; and, three, it is about demonizing poor people and struggling families to justify taking away the basic programs that are helping them survive in this country.

So, I want to just close out by saying that I grew up in a low-income family. Many of you have heard my story before. But as I woke up to the news that the President was freezing childcare funding to these five states, I had to think about the millions of families that would be impacted by it. I think about my own mom, a single mom, barely struggling to get by, working multiple jobs.

These programs are a lifeline. They make it possible for people like me to ultimately have a pathway to success.

And you all are sitting here running legislation on showerheads while millions of Americans' health insurance is expiring, while millions of Americans cannot even put food on the table right now. And you are over here parading around state officials, demonizing immigrants, talking about cutting basic programs, and you are passing legislation to redefine showerheads in Congress, while the President of the United States is illegally invading foreign countries.

Mr. BIGGS. Order.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired.

Ms. STANSBURY. So, I find it appalling and disgusting—

Mr. BIGGS. Order. Order.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired.

The Chair recognizes Dr. Foxx from North Carolina.

Mr. BIGGS. I have a UC request.

Chairman COMER. Oh, before the Chair recognizes Mr. Biggs from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a UC request.

First one: "HHS Freezes Childcare Payments to Minnesota After Massive Fraud Alleged."

Next one: "Minnesota's Quality 'Learing' Center Fixes Sign. Address Still Misspelled."

"Minnesota Made 'It Easier' to Get Into Daycare Business."

"Trump's Deputies Freeze Childcare Payments to Minnesota Amid Alleged Somali Fraud!"

"Jonathan Turley Explains Why Feds Can Dig Deep Into Somali Scammer Scandal."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Gill.

Mr. GILL. I have got another UC request, an article from *City Journal*, quote, "The Largest Funder of Al-Shabaab is the Minnesota Taxpayer."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

I believe, Mr. Fallon, you have a request?

Mr. FALLON. Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to enter into the record an article by the *Center of the American Experiment*, "Feeding Our Future: Keith Ellison Caught on Tape!"

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair now recognizes Dr. Foxx from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And I thank our witnesses for being here today.

Representative Robbins, when Governor Walz testified before this Committee last June, I reminded him that the fraud involving the nonprofit Feeding Our Future established Minnesota as ground zero for the largest COVID-19 fraud scheme in the Nation.

Feeding Our Future took \$250 million in Federal funds out of the mouths of hungry children, which amounts to \$1,600 per child living in poverty in Minnesota. According to the FBI, the \$250 million in Federal taxpayer money was funneled, quote, "into luxury homes, cars, and lavish lifestyles while families struggled," end quote.

The FBI stated it, quote, “will not allow criminals to rob Federal programs and walk away unscathed. We will expose their schemes, dismantle their networks, and ensure they face the full weight of justice,” end quote.

Last June, Governor Walz assured me that he, quote, “wholeheartedly,” end quote, supported the Federal Government’s efforts to bring to justice those who stole Federal taxpayer money at the expense of hungry children.

If he had been true to his word, we would not be sitting here today. However, the Committee’s back today because the Feeding Our Future scam is just the tip of the iceberg of fraud in Minnesota and perhaps beyond.

Representative Robbins, Democrats in your state have tried to dismiss your inquiry into the Feeding Our Future fraud as a partisan political exercise. Is exposing fraud and theft of taxpayer funds a partisan activity?

Ms. ROBBINS. No, ma’am. As I said in our first Committee hearing, it is nonpartisan. Everyone should want to protect taxpayers and vulnerable citizens.

Ms. FOXX. And we completely agree.

Representative Robbins, did Governor Walz work with you and your Committee “wholeheartedly” to bring justice to those involved in the Feeding Our Future fraud?

Ms. ROBBINS. No, ma’am. They have ignored the documents we have provided to them.

We did a hearing in February 2025 on childcare fraud that was outlined in the Nick Shirley video, and we gave them a list of 72 childcare providers that we were concerned about that got a million dollars each or more. And, as we saw in the Shirley video last month, they have done nothing about it.

Ms. FOXX. Representative Hudson, for several years we have heard about whistleblowers, highlighted by some of us in Congress, who noted instances of fraud in Minnesota. With this in mind, the recent allegations from Nick Shirley regarding staggering amounts of fraud involving childcare centers come as no surprise.

What kind of climate did Governor Walz create for whistleblowers?

Mr. HUDSON. Well, I think he did a really good job of demonstrating for us the kind of climate that he has created yesterday, when, in an unhinged rant, he tried to throw Deputy U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson under the bus, a guy who has been doing this for, I believe, 16 years.

If he is willing to throw a deputy U.S. Attorney under the bus, what do you think he is going to do to a state agency employee?

That is the climate. And everybody who works for the Walz Administration knows it.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you.

Representative Rarick, do you believe the Walz Administration seriously pursued whistleblowers’ reports of fraud?

Ms. RARICK. I think that the Walz Administration seriously retaliated against whistleblowers and ignored them and dismissed them. And, you know, in my opening statement, I talked about the threats of firing them and blacklisting them and things like that. So that is what the Walz Administration focused on.

Ms. FOXX. Representative Rarick, innocent American taxpayers are collateral damage in the Democrats' reckless disregard for taxpayer funds. Hardworking Americans and their communities are left to pay the price.

What lessons can other states and Federal officials take from your work to expose the stunning amount of fraud and the network of those who enabled it, that you all have exposed in Minnesota?

Ms. RARICK. The answer to that is very simple, and that is: If you just do simple, basic good governance like reconciliation and a few other financial controls, you will not have the problems that you have here. And if you do not retaliate against your employees, your frontline workers that point out fraud, you will not have this problem either.

Ms. FOXX. Representative Hudson, do you have anything you would like to add to that?

Mr. HUDSON. Yes, absolutely. You have to have a culture of good faith. And that is what is lacking in Minnesota. There is not a culture of good faith.

And you see a very strange strategy going on right now with Minnesota Democrats where every day they are denying this problem, which really strikes me as bizarre because we know there are more prosecutions coming. So, what are they going to say as story after story drops and we can cite time and date where they said it was not a problem?

Ms. FOXX. Thank you.

And, Mr. Chairman, I would like to note that it was the Education and Workforce Committee when I was Chair that first brought this issue to the public's attention, and we got nowhere under a Democrat administration.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. That is exactly correct. Thank you, Dr. Foxx. The Chair recognizes Ms. Summer Lee from Pennsylvania.

Ms. LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I think like so many people on this Committee have already articulated, nobody here believes that rooting out fraud and waste and abuse is not a top priority of this Committee, of our caucus, of their conference. It is. If you are on this Committee, it is the top charge that we all undertake incredibly seriously.

But I think, like so many things with the modern Republican Party, it is like you are skulking right around the edge of things but too often your bigotry, the Republican Party's own bigotry, is imprisoning them and keeping them from ever actually doing something that helps, not harms, the American people. And this is another one of those instances, right? When it is a person of color, if it is two or three, it is a pattern, and the entire community must be indicted. But if it is 100 Republicans, it is just not that. Neither here nor there.

Because it is important, that is why we have routinely held hearings where we actually go over with the Government Accountability Office their "High Risk List." We take it seriously.

But the tone of this hearing seems to be a hypocritical witch hunt—it is hard to take it as anything but that—rather than an actual oversight effort.

Our Federal Government currently has the tools to catch and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. It is how the alleged fraud in Minnesota was caught by the Biden Administration in the first place.

Mr. Ballou, as a former Federal prosecutor, you are familiar with some of the tools that we have, correct?

Mr. BALLOU. Yes.

Ms. LEE. Just briefly, could you please verify the following tools for me?

Yes or no, does the Government Accountability Office work to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse?

Mr. BALLOU. Yes.

Ms. LEE. Do Inspectors General work toward these goals?

Mr. BALLOU. Absolutely.

Ms. LEE. What about the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency?

Mr. BALLOU. Yes.

Ms. LEE. Are whistleblowers important to rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse?

Mr. BALLOU. Absolutely.

Ms. LEE. Has the Trump Administration helped or hurt these tools?

Mr. BALLOU. Certainly hurt it by disbanding the council for inspectors general and then ultimately firing 19 IGs.

Ms. LEE. Thank you. That is right.

Again and again, Trump has attacked the oversight mechanisms within the Federal Government. He illegally fired 17 Inspectors General and other key personnel. He goes after whistleblowers, and he tries to roll back their protections. He routinely ignores the rampant corruption within his own Administration.

Republicans have turned a blind eye to all of this. They have held no hearings on these actions.

And this hearing today is not even about fraud generally within the Federal benefits system, which we would welcome. Republicans have cherry-picked a blue state and an immigrant population—vulnerable—to demonize. To be clear, Minnesota is not the only state with a fraud problem.

To truly tackle waste, fraud, and abuse, we need to approach the issue with a scalpel, not a mallet. Discovering that people are committing fraud in a Federal program does not mean we should smash the whole thing and end it. It means its oversight mechanisms need to be improved.

That is why it is so disappointing to see that the Minnesota House Fraud Prevention Committee that our witness, Hon. Kristin Robbins, chairs, has issued no reports on these uncovered schemes. It has not advanced any legislation to address the issue or even shared whistleblower reports with their Democratic colleagues. They have just held a bunch of hearings and generated headlines—something our Committee is all too familiar with.

This hearing is not an effort by Republicans to improve social service programs. It is an excuse to end them and to punish Democratic-led states.

This has always been the plan. It is why Republicans' so-called Big, Beautiful Bill is estimated to cut more than \$1 trillion from

Medicaid and CHIP benefits and cut SNAP for 40 million people, the very children or folks with disabilities who were mentioned in the opening statements.

Trump has also already taken advantage of the situation in Minnesota. After a YouTuber harassed and posted unsubstantiated claims of fraud against childcare centers, HHS froze childcare funding to Minnesota, which would affect more than 23,000 children.

Just yesterday, Trump also froze approximately \$10 billion in funding for programs supporting childcare, social services grants, and cash assistance in not only Minnesota but in other Democratic-led states—California, Colorado, New York, and Illinois.

No matter what party we are elected to, we represent the people of our district, Democrat or Republican. We represent, as the Federal Government, all people of all states irrespective of how they voted. That is the charge that I took, and I would like and hope that you all would do the same.

When so many of these social service programs are being gutted and defunded, fraud becomes even more harmful, as that means even less money is going to people who need it. People need these programs.

This situation should be an opportunity to take a deep look at the programs and improve their oversight abilities, not an excuse to cut them entirely.

If we care about the most vulnerable, if we care about the most marginalized, this is an opportunity to do so. And I welcome us to actually do that one day.

Thanks. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Ms. Lee, the IGs are hired to identify fraud. They have not identified fraud. The IGs have failed.

But, anyway.

Ms. LEE. You all have failed.

Chairman COMER. No. You—

Ms. LEE. You all continue to fail.

Chairman COMER [continuing]. All have failed. You—

Ms. LEE. We have done nothing. You have the gavel, Mr. Comer.

Chairman COMER. This is—

Ms. LEE. We barely do hearings—

Chairman COMER. How do you say we failed?

Ms. LEE [continuing]. On anything that actually affects change.

Chairman COMER. You have failed. You want—

Ms. LEE. You have power here, and yet you—

Chairman COMER [continuing]. To spend more money, more money, more money.

Ms. LEE [continuing]. Do not do anything.

Mr. FALLON. Decorum.

Ms. LEE. Yes. He actually initiated this, though—

Chairman COMER. All right. The Chair recognizes—

Ms. LEE [continuing]. But thank you so much for your opinion.

Chairman COMER. You have failed.

Ms. LEE. I yielded back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Perry from Pennsylvania for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. I thank the Chairman.

And I would just like to point out to everybody that, at this very moment, we are going to consider an appropriations bill that had an earmark in it for a million dollars for another Somali-led organization whose family has ties and convictions to ISIS and fentanyl-related addiction.

And I think it is very difficult to just—for all of us to determine what is legitimate and what is not.

But I would just ask if the Committee will play the video that Mr. Crane had referred to for me at this time.

Chairman COMER. Can you stop the—okay. Go ahead.

[Video shown.]

Mr. PERRY. Can we get the sound turned up?

You can see the subtitles there.

If you will notice the campaign contribution at the bottom for \$4,700 and then the \$250-million fraud scheme associated with said individuals.

Listen, ladies and gentlemen, it is not me calling out one community or another or one individual Representative or another; it is fraud.

Representatives Robbins, Hudson, and Rarick, thanks for your service. I know it is difficult and you are operating in difficult circumstances where it does not sound like you have got a lot of support.

And I imagine that, as Ms. Robbins—Representative Robbins, you are the Chair of the Oversight Policy Committee? Is that right?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. PERRY. Yes. I imagine, at the state level, you do not quite have the resources you need to track down all this stuff. This Federal jury found that the Feeding Our Future mastermind and co-defendant and also the contributor to one of your Representatives from your state, one of our colleagues here, \$4,700, for a \$250-million pandemic fraud scheme—like, you do not probably have the resources to find that kind of stuff. It is massive, right?

And I suspect, as someone who—you know, you serve at the pleasure of your constituents who want to see you elected and contribute to you—a \$4,700 campaign contribution for \$250 million of, I guess, spending at the Federal level is a pretty good investment for people.

We are not here to pick on anybody, but I will tell you, I think the American people are particularly affronted when their goodwill is returned by stealing their hard-earned money.

I just want to—if you can comment on that particular case, this Feeding Our Future, and the fact that these folks pled guilty to \$250 million, and then connections to the political operation in your state which is dismantling your state.

Ms. ROBBINS. Thank you, sir.

Yes. So, this is the big problem. There is a network of people who have been politically supporting the Democrats, who have also been contributing to them, and who have been involved in multiple schemes.

So, a woman who was in this childcare group, the Minnesota Minority Childcare Association, Ikram Mohamed, she was later indicted in the Feeding Our Future scandal, as was her brother and

her mother and, I believe, a sister. And so, it is a network that functions in our state that we have to get a handle on.

And then one of the people indicted in that case, for Feeding Our Future, for money-laundering \$1.1 million, then they used that same company, shell company, they did the money laundering with, to buy property for an assisted-living facility after they were indicted. And then his wife has a company getting millions of dollars from the state to provide services to the assisted-living facility bought by his shell company he has already been indicted for.

They do not shut off the spigot. That is the problem.

Mr. PERRY. So, this is completely outrageous, obviously.

I am not an attorney. Are any one of you three attorneys? Are you?

Ms. ROBBINS. No, sir.

Mr. PERRY. So, you know, you said, Representative Robbins, that you informed the Governor of these things. That is what you said, right? That is your testimony here today.

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir. I did a hearing on it, and I brought charts and laid out the roadmap.

Mr. PERRY. So, there are crimes of commission and crimes of omission. So, if the Governor did not actively be involved in this fraud, that would be a crime of commission. But if he knew about it and did not do anything about it, would you consider that a crime of omission?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. PERRY. And what should be done about crimes of omission regarding taxpayer funds?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, they should be prosecuted.

And when, as you said, we do not have a lot of resources on our Committee. As legislators, we do not have access to bank records, health records, the state payment system. So, when we get credible allegations of fraud, we bring it to the U.S. Attorney and the Office of Legislative Auditor, because they can get access to those records and then bring the prosecutions criminally.

Mr. PERRY. Thank you, Chair. I yield.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. Before I go to Ms. Randall, the Chair recognizes Mr. Biggs for a UC.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Number one, "Washington Post Calls for Welfare Reform After Minnesota Fraud Scandal."

"Exclusive: Treasury and House Panel Launch Probes Into Tim Walz's Handling of a Billion Dollars of Food Aid Fraud."

Additionally, X—referring to the earmark that Mr. Perry just referred to.

Additionally, "The Somali Fraud Scandal Gave Trump a Kill Switch. What Happens If He Does Not Use It."

"Resurfaced Video Shows How Somali Scammers Use Day Care Centers to Scam State."

"Scrutinizing SNAP Will Help Ensure the Neediest Get Food Stamps."

"MASTER Class! AG Hamilton SCHOOLS WaPo Hack Playing Race Card to Defend Somali Fraud Ring in Minnesota."

“Tim Walz Was Brought Down by a Scandal Hiding in Plain Sight.”

“Unearthed Surveillance Video Shows Parents Allegedly Helping with Fraud.”

I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back—or, I am sorry. Without objection, so ordered.

The gentleman yields back.

Ms. Randall, a couple of our witnesses have requested bathroom breaks. I told them the Ranking Member and I agreed, they can go and come back. We are going to keep the hearing going. If your questions were pertaining to one of them, we will skip to someone else, if that—

Ms. RANDALL. That is fine.

Chairman COMER. Do you want to go ahead? All right. The Chair recognizes you for 5 minutes.

Ms. RANDALL. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

You know, I have prepared some remarks that I definitely want to get to about the importance of childcare funding for all of us and all of our districts. I think we all recognize that we are in a childcare crisis. We have lost so many parents, especially women, from the workforce because they just cannot find adequate childcare.

But I have to start by addressing some of what we have heard in this Committee so far today.

I did not get myself together to ask any of my colleagues to yield for a question, so I will ask you. And if you do not know the answer, it is okay; I do.

What percent of sexual assaults in the United States are committed by White men?

Ms. ROBBINS. I do not know.

Ms. RANDALL. Fifty-seven percent.

Of the January 6 insurrectionists who were pardoned, do you know how many have been charged and convicted and arrested of additional crimes, including child sexual assault, kidnapping, production of child pornography, rape, conspiracy to murder an FBI agent, domestic violence by strangulation?

Mr. HUDSON. I do not have that information.

Ms. RANDALL. No. Thirty-three since their pardons.

Of the 21,504 murder offenders in the United States in 2023, do you know how many were White?

Ms. ROBBINS. No.

Ms. RANDALL. Eight thousand, eight hundred and forty-two, which is 41 percent.

Following the domestic extremists tracker that George Washington University (GW) compiles, since 2015, there have been 643 individuals charged, 447 percent found guilty. Do you know how many are men?

Mr. HUDSON. You tell me.

Ms. RANDALL. Ninety-five percent.

We can trot out all of the data that we want to create the sense that there is a bad guy, there is a bad group of people, there are folks who are not among us, there are folks who are other. And I think we should spend a lot more time looking at ourselves, looking

at American citizens, looking at White men, who are committing violence at disproportionate rates in our country, who are committing crimes at disproportionate rates in our country, including the President of the United States who is sitting at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, as so many of my colleagues have pointed out.

I also want to say, you know, I have heard a lot about the Somali donors to political campaigns. We all acknowledge, right, that you cannot donate to a political campaign in the United States unless you are an American citizen, right? I am just going to, like, acknowledge that.

You know who else is getting rich as a campaign donor at the expense of the U.S. taxpayers and because of the decisions that this government has made? Yes, Elon Musk, but also billionaire Paul Singer, a Trump donor who is getting rich off the military actions that this President engaged in, in Venezuela.

Now, about childcare, \$7 for every \$1 spent on childcare and early learning are returned to our U.S. economy. It is good for families. It is good for kids. It is good for our economic growth. But we are still facing a childcare crisis in this country.

Chair Robbins, I understand that you have three kids and that they were enrolled in daycare at one point before you became a stay-at-home mom. What would your reaction be to an unknown, potentially armed angry individual, showing up at your home with a camera demanding to enter while your children were at home?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, we used a neighbor to do our childcare.

Ms. RANDALL. What if they showed up at your neighbor's house?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. I do not think she would—they would be coming in, but—

Ms. RANDALL. How would you feel about it if someone who was armed and angry showed up in the house where your children were?

Ms. ROBBINS. I am not sure I understand. Who is armed? What are you asking about?

Ms. RANDALL. Thank you. I imagine you would be scared. I think many families would be scared if that happens to you. I want to share a story of a provider from Washington State who said, following the fraud claims and the demonization of Somali Americans and childcare providers, three adults came into her home and banged on her door startling the children in her care. The children were frightened and confused. She has been receiving repeated death threats by phone and voice mail.

Individuals have returned multiple times, sometimes two or three times a day, parking outside the home and monitoring activity. They recorded families arriving and leaving. As a result, families felt unsafe and some withdrew their children from care. A nearby provider closed their program entirely due to fear.

Another provider shared that she was approached by a man with a gun outside her home who interrogated her about her childcare program, and she is now too scared to step outside. Providers are not answering the phone anymore because of all the threats, which means that parents are not able to get in touch with staff regarding their children's care.

Mr. BIGGS. Order. Mr. Chairman, order.

Chairman COMER. Gentledady's time is expired. You went 30 seconds over. As did Ms. Stansbury, so.

Ms. RANDALL. Thank you for your lenience, Mr. Chair.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Gosar from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to the witnesses for traveling.

Ms. Robbins, the Minnesota legislature led by your Committee sounded the alarm on the fraud for years, but it was ignored by Governor Walz. Did Keith Ellison, the Attorney General, also—was he aware of this?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, he was aware of the fraud, and he came before our Committee, and I feel like he did not do his job prosecuting these cases. Most of the cases have been prosecuted federally by the U.S. Attorney, both under President Biden in Feeding Our Future and currently under President Trump.

Mr. GOSAR. So, he, in your state, is the top attorney for the public, right?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes.

Mr. GOSAR. For the public. That is what I find very interesting. Well, maybe it has to do something with the campaign contributions Attorney General Ellison and his son received from members of Feeding Our Future, an organization now under investigation. The same group whose members allegedly tried to bribe jurors, but I am sure that is just a coincidence. Nothing to see here. Sounds very familiar. Sounds very Biden crime syndicatedesque.

Now, when you are talking about the tools that you could use, would any Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that takes Federal funding be of value to you that they would have to disclose all their Federal funding or all their funding mechanisms as they take one penny from the Federal Government?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. One of the things we have seen in Minnesota is that some of these nonprofits have had their Federal 501(c)(3) status revoked, but the state continues to fund it.

Mr. GOSAR. It is interesting you say that, because you know, the IRS actually does a study that actually has those numbers, but when we order it, it is blanked out. It is redacted. All of it is redacted. I wonder if there are some interesting aspects to that, you know, follow-the-money trail.

Now, Representative Hudson, the head of Feeding Our Future was sentenced in November for his role in the largest COVID fraud scheme in United States history according to the DOJ. This is a predictable result of the massive COVID spending with little or no oversight. In fact, we spent between \$4.3 and \$7.5 trillion during COVID, and we do not have a single receipt, not one. Okay?

Now, this is a predictable outcome from massive spending, whether it is expanded COVID tax credits under the so called Affordable Care Act or the programs like the massive Minnesota HHS initiative with no enrollment cap. Unfortunately, there are plenty of similar Federal programs right here in Washington, D.C.

My question for you is, in your experience, what failures make government funding streams particularly susceptible to fraud?

Mr. HUDSON. Well, as I outlined in my opening statement, and in my written testimony, basically we are spending far more money than we have the operational capacity to monitor. Like, they are

just—now deputy U.S. Attorney, was U.S. Attorney at the time, Joe Thompson, said we cannot prosecute our way out of this. That is another way of saying it. We have to have controls on the front end.

Mr. GOSAR. And with massive amounts, like I just talked to you about in COVID, you know, it actually—it gives the environment for fraud. It just builds on it, right?

Mr. HUDSON. Correct.

Mr. GOSAR. Well, Ms. Rarick, what concrete actions did Walz's Administration take to intimidate whistleblowers into silence?

Ms. RARICK. So, I think the first thing he did, was he put in place commissioners. Right now, we have a deputy commissioner over the Department of Human Services that is known to whistleblowers as being, like, the queen of retaliation, so when you put somebody in charge that is known to retaliate, that is a problem.

I would also note on your previous question about the COVID money, and we discovered in our Committee that the auditor—so there was a bid for auditing the COVID-19 money, and the auditor was known to be our Minnesota State Auditor Blaha, so that is another Democrat within the whole fold of the Democrats involved as well.

Mr. GOSAR. Would it surprise you that we spent \$13 trillion from Bill Clinton to Donald Trump in that span of time, \$13 trillion with not a single receipt?

Ms. RARICK. That is absolutely shocking. I used to do accounting, and that is deplorable. That is something that you should be in prison for that.

Mr. GOSAR. Absolutely. So, you know, the United States has no obligation to tolerate guests who break our laws, and in this case, there seems like there are a whole bunch of them, and unfortunately, they were targeting one general area. And it is sad to me that we are always being screamed at about xenophobia, all these different types of phobias and racist, and yet, the facts still stand.

So, Mr. Chairman, I find it very interesting, today's hearing, and I applaud you for doing it. Thank you, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. The Chair now recognizes the lady from Texas, Ms. Jasmine Crockett.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, may I do a UC?

Chairman COMER. I am sorry, Ms. Crockett. The Chair recognizes Mr. Biggs.

Mr. BIGGS. I apologize for that.

Chairman COMER. That is alright.

Mr. BIGGS. There are some more UCs. "Senator John Kennedy brings Somali fraud to the Senate Floor." "Viral Video's David says he Filed Complaint Against Walz Over Fraud Allegations." "Minnesota adds Medicaid Fraud Verification Amid Alleged \$9 Billion Loss." "Minnesota Somali Fraudsters Paid for Rich Lifestyles with Stolen Money." "What Investigators Still Haven't Asked about Minnesota's Fraud," I hope to ask that. "Trump Deploys 2,000 Federal Agents to Minnesota." "Venezuela Has Been Dealt with; Somali Scammers Should be Next." "Beyond Parity: Craigslist Ad from a Day Care Center in Minneapolis Seeks to Hire 20 Child Actors." "Dr. Oz Orders Full Scale Federal Audit of Minnesota Medicaid." "Did You Miss a Story about Alleged Medicaid Fraud from a Soma-

lian-run Health Services Provider in Maine?” “A YouTubers Follow-up Video on Minnesota Fraud is Just as Wild.” “HHS to Close Biden Era Loophole that Lets States Pay Child Care Providers Without Counting Attendance.” Yield back. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair now recognizes Ms. Jasmine Crockett from Texas.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thank you so much, Mr. Chair, and for every witness that is here, thank you so much for your time and your attention.

I just have one quick question. I have not been here the entire hearing, but I do not think this question has been posed for each of you, and we can start at the far end. Do you believe that all Somalis are engaged in fraud?

Ms. ROBBINS. I do not, and I would like to——

Ms. CROCKETT. Okay. Just yes or no. Next.

Mr. HUDSON. Of course not.

Ms. RARICK. Absolutely not. We have good Somali people in our state.

Mr. BALLOU. Absolutely not.

Ms. CROCKETT. Okay. Thank you so much. I just want to make sure I level set, because it seems like we want to continue to, especially as we just heard those particular articles entered into the record, we want to continue to just make it seem as if you are Somali, then somehow you are a fraudster, and this Administration has decided that it wants a target on their backs. And so when my colleague, Ms. Randall, decided that she wanted to talk about the threats that are being made toward various Somali people, the reason she brought it up is because this particular side of the aisle has a tendency of if one person does something bad, especially if they are an immigrant, then we are going to cast aside that entire community. So, I wanted to level set, and I appreciate your honesty, because that is something that we very rarely get from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

In fact, if we want to talk about fraud, I got a lot of fraud that we are going to talk about, because we going to get into this, but I am very curious to hear—you know, let me ask you, Mr. Ballou, are you aware of allegations that \$50,000 in taxpayer dollars have been given to someone that is currently sitting in this Administration by the name of Tom Homan? Are you aware? Okay. That is a yes?

Mr. BALLOU. I am.

Ms. CROCKETT. Okay. And last I checked, and correct me if I am wrong if you have different information, but he was given that \$50,000 in exchange for being able to provide contracts and kickbacks to people as soon as Trump was going to get into office. The DOJ was actually investigating this, but as soon as Trump got into office, last I checked, he actually said go ahead and throw away that case.

Mr. BALLOU. So, it was a Department of Justice investigation and he accepted the money from an undercover FBI agent in cash.

Ms. CROCKETT. Are you aware as to whether or not we ever got that \$50,000 back?

Mr. BALLOU. I am not.

Ms. CROCKETT. Oh, okay. Are you aware as to whether or not this Committee has decided to investigate that?

Mr. BALLOU. I am not.

Ms. CROCKETT. Are you aware as to whether or not any committee in Congress has decided to investigate the fact that we know that he took \$50,000 from an undercover officer and yet we still do not have that money nor does he have any charges?

Mr. BALLOU. I am not.

Ms. CROCKETT. Oh, okay. All right. So, let us get into it. We are living through the most corrupt Presidential administration in American history, a \$300 million ballroom, a \$230 million payout from the Department of Justice because the President got his feelings hurt because he has to be investigated for being a criminal, hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars spent at Trump-owned properties around the country, Trump branded wine being sold at the Coast Guard exchanges, American taxpayer dollars being spent on DHS propaganda ads on Truth Social, awarding Federal contracts to corporations in exchange for campaign contributions. Kash Patel flew his girlfriend around the country on a multimillion-dollar jet that taxpayers paid for. Kristi Noem gave companies she is affiliated with hundreds of millions of tax dollars, then went out and spent another \$200 million on two private jets for her travel.

For 12 months, this Administration has been taking billions of taxpayer dollars from American people and have been giving it away to their own companies in the form of tax cuts, government contracts, or other government-funded subsidies. So, Congress has a role in getting rid of fraud, I will admit that, in any federally funded government program.

However, I think the fraud that the American people are concerned about is that the Republicans are taking away American's healthcare so that ultra billionaires can get more tax cuts. The real fraud is the dehumanization and demonization of the working-class Americans and immigrants to distract folks away from corporate socialism that is happening because of the Republicans, so this is truly the definition of throwing away the baby with the bath water.

The Republican philosophy is that if the cost of living for the average American increases, they are on their own, but if the cost of doing business increases for the wealthiest people on earth, well, then it is the government's job to bail them out.

But I want to get to my last question, because Mr. Ballou, I got to give you a chance. He has been issuing pardons for numerous people who have defrauded the American people, and Republicans on this Committee, yes, just as quiet as the room just got, right?

So, Mr. Ballou, talk to me about how the Trump Administration has welcomed fraud across government by purging DOJ attorneys and shuttering ethics offices across the Federal Government.

Mr. BALLOU. Well, you know, one of the things that has been a common theme in this discussion so far is potential government employee involvement in some of these schemes. That has not been proven yet, but it does seem to be alleged. The concern that I have, is the office that would prosecute that in the Department of Justice, the public integrity section, has been largely defunded and decimated.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thank you so much. My time is expired, but I do have some UCs, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Do you want to do them now?

Ms. CROCKETT. I do.

Chairman COMER. Okay.

Ms. CROCKETT. The first one is from *Truthout*. "Trump Grants Clemency to Executive who led \$205 million Medicare Fraud Scheme."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. CROCKETT. The next one is, "Trump Commutes Sentence of Dr. Salomon Melgen, Eye Doctor Found Guilty of Medicare Fraud."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. CROCKETT. The next one, "Healthcare Fraudster Philip Esformes is Latest Trump Clemency Recipient to be Arrested." He defrauded more than \$1 billion from Medicare.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. CROCKETT. "Trump Pardons Nursing Home Owner and Supporter Convicted of \$7 Million in Tax Evasion."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

And we will want all that stuff to put in the record.

Ms. CROCKETT. I will. I got you. "Trump Pardons Cost Victims and Taxpayers \$1.3 Billion, House Judiciary Committee Democrats' Review Said."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair now recognizes Mr. Biggs.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Chair recognizes Ms. Mace.

Ms. MACE. I have a request to be recognized to make a motion.

Chairman COMER. I am sorry?

Ms. MACE. I have a request to be recognized to make a motion.

Chairman COMER. Yes, go ahead.

Ms. MACE. I move that the Committee issue a subpoena to the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for all records related to the immigration and naturalization of, or any immigration benefit received by, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ahmed Abdi Salan Hirsi also known as Ahmed Aden, Ahmed Nur Said Elmi, and any members of Ilhan Omar's family.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Another motion was just made. The Committee will hold this motion in abeyance until the end of today's hearing. The Committee will now proceed with today's hearing. Thank you, Ms. Mace.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Biggs from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A report that came out yesterday indicates that on average, almost \$1 million a day in cash is being sent from Minnesota out of the country by a small group of Somali carriers. Are any of you familiar with that on the panel?

Ms. ROBBINS. I am not familiar with that particular story, but that story has been in Minnesota for a long time where millions of dollars has gone out of Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) airport in cash to Somali.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I ask that this be admitted to this hearing.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you. The Biden Administration required states to pay healthcare and daycare providers before verifying any attendance at a daycare and before care was delivered. Would you say that policy facilitated the funneling of funds or defrauding of government funds? We will start with—we will go down the panel and start with Representative Robbins, please.

Ms. ROBBINS. My understanding is that there were not ever enough internal controls, but under Medicaid rules, the Walz Administration already had the opportunity to stop payment when there were credible allegations of fraud. They had the opportunity to do prepayment review. They could do all of those things, and they did not use those tools.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Hudson?

Mr. HUDSON. Not only does paying people before they deliver a service introduce an obvious opportunity for people to abscond with public dollars, but we have heard these arguments in our committees back in Minnesota from Minnesota Democrats that it is just so important that we pay people up front because they cannot afford to wait for the reimbursements.

Mr. BIGGS. Ms. Rarick.

Ms. RARICK. Yes. This is absolutely counter to good accounting and good accountability, so I would definitely say that you should be providing service and getting paid after.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Ballou, what do you think?

Mr. BALLOU. I cannot speak to that policy only because I am learning about it just now, but I will say, you know—

Mr. BIGGS. Wait, wait, so then the question then is, do you think it is a good idea to pay for the service up front before it is delivered and without accounting?

Mr. BALLOU. You know, I can only speak to the criminal side of things, not the administrative side, by my concern here, again, is to the extent that there would be violations because of that change, the office responsible for prosecuting that—

Mr. BIGGS. Okay. So, you did not want to answer the question. You want to filibuster. Thanks, brother. Appreciate it.

Now, here where we are going to go is one of the things that you mentioned, Representative Robbins, is fiscal facilities and real estate. And as we have seen and looked at this, as I have looked at this, all of the public reporting that is out there, looked at a little bit of exhibit A, that is like 2,800 pages, 2,300, whatever it is, did not get to look at all of it but looked at some of it, I want to know did anybody go in and find out who is owning all these properties? Because you have basically vacant properties, ostensibly holding themselves out to be daycare centers. Who owns those properties? Anybody looked into that?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, some of our staff is looking at it currently, and I would encourage people to think about this as you look at your other states. We have people who own the properties and then other people related to them or close to them that provide the services, and they both get remuneration, and then we have people who homestead assisted living facilities, small, single-family homes, and say it is a business, but then they should not be allowed to homestead. We have instances where there are multiple assisted living

facilities that have been homesteaded, so the ownership of the properties and the ownership of the business is very important. This has gotten to be such a problem in Minnesota that people invest in the daycare business as an investment. And so, getting not only who runs the facility but who the ownership is, is critical, because that is where a lot of the money goes.

Mr. BIGGS. That is my point is that you are setting up a series and facilitating straw man purchases of actual real property to actually launder or hide money coming from the state and defraud the state, and I would encourage both the feds and the state to really take a close look at that.

I did find it interesting—well, let me just ask the last question I have got time for here is, well, I got to ask two. The \$18 billion, I am saying \$18 billion. That is the total nut over the last five years, if I understand your testimony right, Representative Hudson, and half of it was defrauded.

Mr. HUDSON. That is the estimate from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Mr. BIGGS. Okay. Has the Walz Administration put into place any new procedures since this has come to a very viral head in the last, you know, six weeks?

Mr. HUDSON. They have appointed a couple of guys and shifted around a couple of chairs on the deck, but it is the equivalent of throwing a glass of water at a stove that is on fire.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I have a few more UCs, if I may.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you. "Victims Shocked after Biden Grants Clemency to Kids for Cash Judge and \$54 Million Embezzler." Shocked. "Biden Clemency for Convicted Fraudsters Met with Outrage—It's a Slap in the Face." "Comer on *Fox News*, Biden Crime Family Pardon Serve as a Confession of Their Corruption." "Biden Pardons More People in his Criminal Clan and Commutes Sentence of Leonard Peltier." Op-ed from the former—the legislative auditor Jim Nobles, "What is the 'Right' Number?" And then, finally, Mr. Chairman, 18 U.S. Code 666, theft or bribery concerning programs receiving Federal funds, seems apt in this case. Mr. Chairman, I yield back. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair recognizes Ms. Pressley from Massachusetts.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let me just begin by making this claim. Credible fraud must be investigated and prevented. Every dollar that is stolen from public programs is a dollar that is taken from a child who needs care, a senior who needs food, or a family that is already struggling to make ends meet.

Ms. Robbins, I want to just begin with a basic question, and please answer yes or no. When someone is convicted of defrauding the public, do you believe that they should be held accountable?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes.

Ms. PRESSLEY. So, if we are serious about fraud, then we also have to be serious about accountability. Ms. Robbins, do you mind just expounding, what does accountability look like to you?

Ms. ROBBINS. We want to prosecute everyone who has committed a crime, and we want to fire officials in the agencies that are liable for allowing the failure of internal controls.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Okay. So, Ms. Robbins, let me be more clear. What should happen to fraudsters who steal public dollars?

Ms. ROBBINS. They should go to jail.

Ms. PRESSLEY. So, in my opinion, you know, accountability means restitution, it means consequences, like incarceration, that help ensure that it does not happen again, you know, as a real deterrent in accountability. It means that money taken from families and the public is returned to them.

But that is not the standard that is being set by Donald Trump who is wielding his clemency authority to allow fraudsters to escape accountability altogether. Last month my office published a clemency report titled "Trump's Clemency Gap, How Trump's Pardons are Ignoring the People Who Need Them the Most." I ask unanimous consent to enter this into the record.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you.

Now to the witnesses who serve in the Minnesota State Legislature on the Fraud Prevention Committee, let us walk through these pardons for fraudsters, and we all care about fraud. So, Ms. Robbins, Mr. Hudson, and Ms. Rarick, Donald Trump pardoned George Santos who defrauded voters and owed them \$370,000 in restitution to victims. Raise your hand if you oppose this pardon. Thank you, Mr. Ballou.

Ms. ROBBINS. Ma'am, I would have to look at the law and the facts of the case. We cannot know the facts of all these individual cases.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Please, no, do not deflect. This is a very public case. You know who George Santos is. You know exactly what he did. We just agreed that, you know, fraud is unacceptable, and so you just talked about accountability. You said if people commit fraud and exploit the public good that they should be incarcerated, so this is not a complicated question.

So, I will give you all one more opportunity. Ms. Robbins, Mr. Hudson, and Ms. Rarick, raise your hand if you oppose the pardon of George Santos.

Mr. HUDSON. Not playing this game.

Ms. PRESSLEY. It is not a game. It is real life. It is not a game at all. Okay. I will take your refusal to go on record not only as cowardice, but that you do agree with that pardon of that fraudster.

Moving on, Donald Trump also gave, and this has never been done before, Presidential pardons to corporations that committed fraud. One example is the crypto company BitMEX that violated U.S. law and was fined \$100 million. Now, raise your hand if you oppose Trump's pardon of this crypto company.

Mr. HUDSON. Not participating.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you, Mr. Ballou. Again, I will take your refusal to not—to raise your hand in opposition, that means that you support this pardon of this corporation that frauded folks to the tune of \$100 million.

Mr. HUDSON. Refusal to participate is not an expression.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Yesterday—reclaiming my time. Reclaiming my time.

Mr. HUDSON. Refusal to participate is not expression one way or the other.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Do you know the rules of Committee? This is my time.

Mr. HUDSON. I know that I am here—

Ms. PRESSLEY. You will not speak over me.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. As a member of the public—

Ms. PRESSLEY. Reclaiming my time. You were not—

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. That you serve. That is what I know.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair? Mr. Chair? You are not in order with the rules of the Committee. This is my time. This is my time.

Mr. HUDSON. And it is our dollars.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I ask the questions and you answer, but you are too much of a coward to answer, so we are going to move on. Now, yesterday was the five-year anniversary, and I want to note, of the January 6 insurrection, and on Donald Trump's first day in office, he pardoned 1,500 insurrectionists, including Brian Christopher Mock, who is from Minnesota. Are you all going to say you do not know who that is? He is from Minnesota.

Now, he kicked, shoved, and threw a flagpole at police officers. You know law enforcement that you claim to support? And he did all of that in the name of fraud. He was an election denier. So, an election fraud lie. Now, he claims he did these things in the name of patriotism, but really he is just a criminal, so raise your hand if you oppose Trump's pardon of this Minnesota individual.

Ms. ROBBINS. Ma'am, this grandstanding nonsense—

Ms. PRESSLEY. This is not grandstanding.

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. Is exactly what Minnesotans hate about D.C.

Ms. PRESSLEY. This is accountability. This is accountability and you are hypocrites. So, again, I will take your refusal—

Mr. HUDSON. Thanks for demonstrating my opening statement.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Excuse me, reclaiming my time.

Ms. MACE. Decorum. She is off the rails.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Reclaiming my time. I am not off the rails. Please.

Ms. MACE. You are totally off the rails.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Enough with your tropes, Nancy. Enough with your tropes. Give me my time back.

Mr. BIGGS. Order. Order, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. PRESSLEY. If Republicans were serious—reclaiming my time. Mr. Chair?

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time is expired.

Mr. HUDSON. You serve me and my constituents.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Reclaiming my time. Reclaiming my time.

Ms. MACE. You are out of time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Reclaiming my time. Reclaiming my time. Mr. Chair, I lost at least ten seconds from my—

Ms. MACE. You are out of time.

Chairman COMER. Time is expired.

Ms. MACE. Out of order and out of time.

Chairman COMER. Ms. Pressley, you have already secured your *MSNBC* spot tonight. Your time is expired.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I am not looking—I am looking for accountability. And you want to run from accountability and your king—

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Mace.

Ms. MACE. You are going to be so good on *MSNBC*.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Mace.

Ms. PRESSLEY [continuing]. And this Administration.

Ms. MACE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Mr. Chairman, I agree, she is going to be a great host on *MSNBC*.

Ms. PRESSLEY. You do not care about hungry children, or you would not to be cutting Medicaid.

Ms. MACE. This is my time. I reclaim my time.

Chairman COMER. I would not want to jump in front of Ms. Mace if I were you, Ms. Pressley.

Ms. MACE. I reclaim my time. This is my time.

Chairman COMER. I would not want to interrupt Ms. Mace. It is her time. The Chair recognizes—

Ms. PRESSLEY. My time was interrupted, Mr. Chair.

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Chair, she did not get all her time.

Mr. HUDSON. She wants to insult us for ten more seconds.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman, she is still out of order. What do we have to do to get this woman in order?

Chairman COMER. Your time is expired. The Chair recognizes Ms. Mace.

Ms. MACE. You are going to be great on TV. You are really good.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I am very much in order.

Ms. MACE. No, baby, you are not. No, baby, you are not. You are not in order. You are out of order.

Ms. PRESSLEY. You are not the—

Ms. MACE. Goodbye. You are done. Mr. Chairman, is my 5 minutes—

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Mace.

Ms. MACE. Are we good here? Mr. Chairman, thank you. As I listen to the witnesses answer questions today, I am struck by the truly breathtaking amount of fraud, the scope and scale perpetrated against the American people by Somalians in Minnesota, screeching Democrats like you just heard at our witnesses. Democrats on this Committee do not want to talk about Minnesota fraud because Minnesota fraud is Democrat fraud.

You are going to make a great host on *MSNBC*. You are going to be great.

And this is a cover up, I mean, the very definition of cover up. And so, while we are still trying to understand the scale of the fraud, it appears that the amount of fraud we are talking about could exceed the size of GDP in Somalia, the size of its economy is what we are talking about, so let that sink in, the amount of fraud we are talking about.

My first question is to Mr. Ballou, this afternoon. Should Somalians in Minnesota be required to speak English? They are citizens.

Mr. BALLOU. One, I just—

Ms. MACE. Yes or no?

Mr. BALLOU. I am here for—

Ms. MACE. Should they be required to speak English if they are American citizens?

Mr. BALLOU. I think that question is really inappropriate.

Ms. MACE. Should they—it is not inappropriate. This is the United States of America. Do you speak English? Should Americans speak English? Citizens speak English? Yes or no?

Mr. MIN. Point of inquiry. Is English the official language of the United States? It is a question—

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman, I am being interrupted again by another—

Chairman COMER. It is not a valid parliament inquiry.

Ms. MACE. I would like to reclaim my time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MIN. Is it not a citizenship requirement?

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to reclaim my time.

Mr. MIN. She is asking the witness.

Ms. MACE. That seems to be a popular theme today.

Chairman COMER. That is not a valid inquiry.

Ms. MACE. Women have the right to speak in this Committee. Conservative women have a right to speak here and not be interrupted.

Chairman COMER. A day late and a dollar short. Ms. Pressley has already got that *MSNBC* slot.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to reclaim my time.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Mace.

Ms. MACE. I believe I have lost, like, ten seconds there.

Chairman COMER. Okay. We will give you ten seconds.

Ms. MACE. Okay. My next question is should Somalians who committed fraud be denaturalized and deported, Mr. Ballou?

Mr. BALLOU. Again—

Ms. MACE. Yes or no?

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. I am not sure that is an appropriate question because the majority of Somalian Minnesotans are citizens.

Ms. MACE. If you commit fraud in this country and you are here from Somalia, you do not believe they should be denaturalized and deported? How much fraud would it take for you to want to denaturalize and deport someone who committed fraud in this country? How much?

Mr. BALLOU. Again—

Ms. MACE. A billion, \$9 billion? \$19 billion? What would it take for you?

Mr. BALLOU. Most Somali Minnesotans are citizens.

Ms. MACE. Right. And the ones that committed fraud, the question was, if you understand English, should be—those who committed fraud, should they be denaturalized and deported, the Somalians who are here, the ones that cannot speak English?

Mr. BALLOU. Yes, so under U.S. law—

Ms. MACE. Okay. My next question for you.

Mr. BALLOU. Can I please finish the question?

Ms. MACE. No, you cannot, because you are not answering the question. My next question is—this is yes or no. If you marry your brother and you commit immigration fraud, should you be denaturalized and deported?

Mr. BALLOU. Again, that—

Ms. MACE. If you commit immigration fraud, yes or no?

Mr. BALLOU. Again, that question seems really inappropriate, and if I can get back to the question—

Ms. MACE. You cannot answer my question, so that is probably more inappropriate. Can you name one significant contribution to Minnesota from a Somali immigrant who cannot speak English?

Mr. BALLOU. Absolutely yes, but again, this is—

Ms. MACE. You did not name one. All right. So, my next questions are going to be for Hon. Ms. Robbins. Good afternoon. Thank you all for being here today. I heard some discussion earlier about Al-Shabaab and the discovery that you believe some of this money that was defrauded the U.S. Government went to Al-Shabaab. Is that correct? Did I hear that right?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. It has been proven.

Ms. MACE. How much money are we talking about?

Ms. ROBBINS. You know, we do not have an amount, so there has been specific cases where it has been charged where we have an amount, but then of the millions that go to Somalia over the years in remittances, a portion of that we understand is taken as sort of a tax or, you know, corruption by Al-Shabaab when it enters the country.

Ms. MACE. Can you explain to us who Al-Shabaab is.

Ms. ROBBINS. It is a terrorist organization in Somalia.

Ms. MACE. And they are affiliated with Al Qaeda. Is that right?

Ms. ROBBINS. My understanding is they are.

Ms. MACE. I am on the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) website where it tells me that since 2014 Al-Shabaab has killed more U.S. citizens than any other Al Qaeda affiliate, and as of 2025, Al-Shabaab, this group, is Al Qaeda's wealthiest component. Can you believe that?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes.

Ms. MACE. And that American tax dollars, through Minnesota, through Governor Tim Walz, who shamefully had to resign from his reelection the other day, thank you to the young YouTuber Nick Shirley, this is the kind of thing that was happening in Minnesota. So, I praise the Republicans who are here today from the Minnesota State Legislature exposing this fraud. And then, Ms. Robbins, when do you think Tim Walz became aware of the fraud?

Ms. ROBBINS. I think he has been aware of it since the beginning. This was a huge issue in our state in the year he ran for Governor and the OLA reports came out first identifying the childcare fraud in March and April 2019 when he was in the first months of his term.

Ms. MACE. Was Keith Ellison in on it, too, knowledgeable? The Catholic turned Muslim guy in Minnesota?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. They were all newly in office, and this was very public knowledge in Minnesota.

Ms. MACE. What role do you think Tim Walz and Keith Ellison played—his Administration in delaying investigations into the fraud?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, I have outlined several things where they stopped our ability to strengthen internal controls and they also shut down the criminal investigations by the OIG and DHS.

Ms. MACE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back. I do have two articles, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to ask unanimous consent.

Chairman COMER. Proceed.

Ms. MACE. This one on *FoxNews.com*, “Minnesota Fraud Probe Will Expand to Other States,” and then on *House.gov*, “Legislators Blast DHS for Revelations that it had Contracts with Feeding Our Future Fraudsters.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. MACE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes—does somebody else seek recognition? The Chair recognizes Ms. Ansari.

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Chair, I would like to start with a UC request. An article from *The Washington Post* titled, “Trump Amplifies Conspiracy Theories on Killing of Minnesota Lawmaker.” As we know, the President shared a video.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. ANSARI. Thank you. So, I want to start with this question for the lawmakers here from Minnesota. As you know, Donald Trump has been posting these conspiracy theories about the linking Governor Walz to the killing of your former Speaker, and insinuating that Governor Walz had something to do with it. Can you please raise your hand if you think this is an appropriate action by the President of the United States. Raise your hand, please.

Ms. ROBBINS. I am not doing a raise your hand. I am happy to comment on it.

Ms. ANSARI. Sure. Is it appropriate for the President to do that?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, the person who murdered our colleague, Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, had in his—

Ms. ANSARI. Answer the question. Do you think it is appropriate for the President of the United States—

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. In his vehicle, evidence saying he thought Tim Walz—

Ms. ANSARI [continuing]. To cause violence against a sitting Governor.

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. Was ordering him to do it. I know the facts will come out in the case and we need to be respectful of the Hortman family and we need to let this play out in the courts.

Ms. ANSARI. That is unacceptable and it is inappropriate to the highest degree for the President of the United States to be sharing conspiracy theories that are obviously going to lead to violence directed at Governor Tim Walz.

Now moving on to the issue here today, we all care deeply about combating waste, fraud, preventing corruption, and holding bad actors accountable. Unfortunately, this country has seen an unprecedented avalanche of such abuse in the past year, all stemming from the Trump Administration, the most corrupt and the most wasteful administration in American history. It is truly amazing that the Majority moves so quickly to hold basically an emergency hearing on the situation in Minnesota without ever one time having held a hearing on the national crisis that is the Trump criminal enterprise being run out of the White House. I do not even know where to begin.

Maybe the Republican Majority would be interested in holding a hearing on the \$50,000 cash bribe that border czar Tom Homan received from FBI undercover agents in a Cava bag. Or how about a hearing on the \$400 million bribe that Donald Trump presented by multi-billion-dollar companies in the form of the White House

ballroom that Donald Trump seems most obsessed with? Do Republicans have any interest in holding a hearing on that corruption scandal? Or the fraudsters and the criminals that Donald Trump has pardoned? He freed George Santos, convicted of theft of public funds. He pardoned Paul Walczak convicted of millions of dollars in tax fraud after Walczak's mother raised money for Trump's campaign.

He released the former President of Honduras sentenced to 45 years for flooding the United States with oceans of cocaine. And these are just a few examples. I have not even brought up DOGE and Elon Musk corruptions, Trump's firing of Inspectors General who are in place to root out fraud, and career U.S. attorneys who are doing the bidding of Donald Trump and prosecuting his personal and political enemies. Is there any interest in holding an oversight hearing on any of those issues?

Now, I want to talk about one specifically appalling instance of blatant corruption in the Trump White House reported by *The New York Times* that the Republican Majority has shown literally zero interest in investigating. This is regarding World Liberty Financial, the cryptocurrency company founded in 2024 by Eric Trump, Donald Trump Jr., Alex Witkoff, and Zack Witkoff, among others. If those names sound familiar, it is because the company is a joint project by the Trump and Witkoff families—Steve Witkoff being Trump's special envoy in the Middle East.

You may think that the President's financial interests in a secretive cryptocurrency exchange may be bad enough, but it gets so much worse than that. Emirati investment firm MGX invested \$2 billion in the Trump-Witkoff crypto business personally enriching the sitting President of the United States, his family, and Witkoff as a White House employee.

This is at the same time that Witkoff is an envoy to the Middle East. He is the one negotiating with the Emiratis as an official Representative of the U.S. Government.

While Witkoff and his sons were negotiating this private crypto deal, Steve Witkoff was also in charge of negotiating with the very same officials as a U.S. official to give the Emiratis something they desperately wanted from us: highly advanced and specialized computer chips.

To make the corruption even more explicit, just after the crypto deal went through, Donald Trump gave his go ahead for the transfer of hundreds of thousands of advanced chips to the Emiratis despite the extremely concerning national security implications. It is perhaps one of the largest and most obvious corruption schemes in United States history implicating a foreign government, paying off the President of the United States and the White House to the tune of literally billions of dollars in exchange for sensitive U.S. technologies. So, please let the Republicans spare us with their feign concerns about waste, fraud, and corruption. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentelady yields back. The Chair recognizes Mr. Fallon from Texas.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

We are here today in this hearing because there is this damning overwhelming evidence of massive industrial scale fraud occurring in Minnesota right now and has been going on for years. This is

a huge story, and while many want to ignore it, deflect from it, or be masters of obfuscation, which we have seen here today, this should be a page one front and center above the fold headline for media outlets across the country, but it is not. And I think it is very interesting. *ABC*, *NBC*, *CBS*, you can find 74 stories today run before you even get a hint of this scandal. This should be a headline, and unfortunately, it is a back-page fine print.

Still, as bad as the network's coverage, albeit, you know, it is ludicrously abysmal, it is better than *CNN*. This very morning *CNN* ran 51 stories on its website, including such riveting breaking news articles such as dogs that are trained to sniff mold, a flock of gay sheep, K-Pop's newest release entitled *Demon Hunters*, inside glimpse of P Diddy Combs' prison cell, and Chinese robots playing soccer, but nary a mention of the tens of billions of dollars of American taxpayer money that has been stolen from honest folk in America by scumbag thieves.

This is the Oversight Committee. We should have one overriding emotion, whether it is Republican or Democrat. We should all be outraged that crooks and thieves and dirt bags are robbing the American people. So, I was very curious to see how the Democrats would play today. Would they expose this fraud and be willing to work with us? Or would they go to their playbook of Donald Trump bad—and when we were in DOGE, it was Elon Musk and billionaires bad—and they did not—they have not really disappointed. January 6 as well has been mentioned. Has nothing to do with what we are talking about today.

The Ranking Member's opening comments even bizarrely talked about Presidential pardons and he railed against POTUS. It has nothing to do with the matter at hand, but for the record, Joe Biden issued 250 percent more pardons and commutations than Donald Trump. In fact, 2,545 more.

Again, back to the matter. This money has been stolen systematically by a gang of thieves while the very people charged with the oversight, mainly the Walz Administration, have been complicit. They have looked the other way. And the Democrats did not disappoint either with isms and phobes, quotes like bigotry and hatred, and we are a hypocritical witchhunt, and then they were taking the hero, Nick Shirley, trying to make him a villain.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter into the record an article. "It's Not Racist to Notice Somali Fraud."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. FALLON. 98 defendants that have been charged thus far in this case, and I think it will end up being hundreds, 85 of them happen to be of Somalian descent. It is just a fact, despite how unfortunate and inconvenient these truths may be to leftists. The Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson thinks that this fraud can equate to maybe \$9 billion. The entire Federal budget of the country of Somalia is \$1.2 billion.

Medicaid fraud does exist in all 50 states, but uncovering it aggressively clearly is not a blue-state priority. If you talk to any expert, I was in the state legislature for eight years, they will tell you objectively that no matter where it is, about 10 to 20 percent of all Medicaid spending is fraudulent. In the State of New York, they spent \$96 billion, so did they recover in fraud \$9.6 billion, \$960

million? No. It was a pittance. It was six one hundredths of one percent was recovered. In the State of Minnesota, \$18 billion. It was eight one hundredths of one percent recovered.

Representative Robbins and the other reps, thank you for coming. Thank you for your courage. You know you are going to be, you know, smeared and I am not going to ask you where is your hand? We are going to have a conversation. Okay? When, Representative Robbins, when you first uncovered this titanic fraud, what was the reaction and actions taken by the Walz Administration or Democratic colleagues? Was it working hand in hand to create synergy and offer full support and help to unmask this fraud, or did you face significant headwinds and fierce pushback to the point of opposition?

Ms. ROBBINS. Throughout our hearings, they would either deny or deflect or say oh, they have handled it or they are new on the job and they do not know. So, those were the answers and the tenor of our hearing. I provided documents to them outlining, as I said in February, of 72 childcare centers I thought they should look at. They have not done it. I have sent six FOIA requests, or data requests, that have not been responded to, so they have not been good partners in rooting this out.

Mr. FALLON. So, block votes Minnesota in 2016 it was so close that I think Hillary Clinton won the state by about 44,000 votes, but if you have blocked 50,000 you can rely on in Minneapolis, that is rather helpful to win an election in Minnesota. But you know what, Mr. Chairman? Our Democratic colleagues, whether it be in Minnesota or here on this Oversight Committee, they will eventually learn. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair recognizes Ms. Simon—or Mr. Bell from Missouri.

Mr. BELL. Thank you, Mr. Chair, Ranking Member, and our witnesses for being here today. I believe in protecting our social services and recognize the need for comprehensive legislation that ensures transparency in the collection and use of Federal funds to support these critical programs that serve our communities in need. The resources provided through social services ensure the welfare of the everyday person and family, and these resources and individuals deserve to be protected. These protections should come at all times, not just when politically beneficial.

What we are witnessing from President Trump and this Administration is an attempt to use social services and the welfare of the American people as pawns to promote their political agenda. Instead of caring for the challenges of the average person, this Administration has deprived them of the very things that the President promised, which is affordable healthcare, housing, and relief from the rising cost of living.

Through rolling back essential healthcare affordability, cutting funding for assistance programs, implementing harmful tariffs, and advancing legislation such as the one big ugly bill, the Administration's actions have ultimately caused more harm than good for the American people.

Reports show that since taking office, President Trump has raised the average cost of living. Health insurance costs have risen by hundreds of dollars for the average person with insurance plans

increasing by more than 20 percent. Housing costs remain at an all-time high. And everyday grocery items show a steady increase with prices rising by 15 to 20 percent.

We cannot pick and choose when to care for the American people. The actions of this Administration show a pattern. They first target our most vulnerable communities, and then gut the very resources to help them. Today, it is our Somali communities and our childcare assistance. Tomorrow, it could be your communities and the resources you and your family rely on for well-being.

At its core, this is about the well-being of the American people. If we truly cared about those we have sworn to represent, we would be working to dismantle all the challenges they face, not just the ones that serve political interest.

Mr. Ballou, President Trump has recently made comments on efforts to freeze childcare funding in California, Colorado, Illinois, and New York. Would these actions benefit or harm children and families?

Mr. BALLOU. Oh, of course they are going to harm it.

Mr. BELL. President Trump has fired thousands of employees across critical departments and has issued executive order 14356 restricting agencies from filling vacant positions or creating new ones unless approved under the order or required by law. Can you speak to how these actions could harm the government's ability to root out waste, fraud, and abuse?

Mr. BALLOU. Absolutely. So, you know, it is going to make it harder both to administer these services and then to identify fraud in the first place. One of the things that I am particularly concerned about is to go after fraud, one of the easiest ways to do it is to prosecute tax crimes, you know. The challenge that we have got right now is the Administration has announced a plan to disband the tax division of the Department of Justice entirely, and that is going to make it much harder to prosecute these sorts of crimes.

Mr. BELL. And can you speak from your work as a Federal prosecutor on how President Trump's actions have contradicted his promises to the American people.

Mr. BALLOU. Well, to the extent that this Administration says that it cares about waste, fraud, and abuse, you know, it seems like that is a selective care. You can look at cases like Paul Walczak who, you know, was convicted of fraud and withheld \$10 million to his own employees in nursing homes. His mother attended a \$1 million a plate fundraiser with the President and Mr. Walczak was quickly pardoned.

This has happened literally dozens of times where favored defendants either had their prosecutions dropped or were pardoned entirely.

Mr. BELL. Okay. Thank you. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair recognizes Mr. Grothman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Sure. I am sorry, we had another briefing in the building, so I do not want to go over past things, but during your initial testimony, Ms. Rarick, you talked about people being threatened who are whistleblowers. Do you know who those people were?

Were they like people who made money off of this, political operatives? You know, could you elaborate on that a little?

Ms. RARICK. Yes, thank you. So, the people that were doing the threatening were the supervisors and directors within the state agencies.

Mr. GROTHMAN. So, state employees were threatening—physically threatening whistleblowers.

Ms. RARICK. They were saying things like, what happens if you lose your home, right? Because if you lose your job, you lose your home. They had pictures in their personnel files of their own homes and their cars. They asked where their children went to school, and where their bus stop was, so there was direct threats and indirect threats.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. Were any of these people brought to justice or this is just the way they deal with things in Minnesota?

Ms. RARICK. You know, it is an interesting thing within the Walz Administration. Those people were promoted.

Mr. GROTHMAN. He just defines evil, doesn't he? Almost the Vice President of the United States. There is a good book out there called the *Tragedy of American Compassion*, and in it, they went over the history of welfare and whether it should be done by the state or done privately, and they pointed out the danger that certain nefarious politicians would always want more welfare because they were buying votes. Do you, either one of you, on the political realm of things feel that perhaps a motive for all the crookedness is, given the size of government today, the importance to win elections? Were they motivated a little bit by getting votes of groups of people? Because this is a danger to our—we are not a democracy, of course, but it is a danger to our form of government.

Ms. RARICK. So, I will answer really quickly, and then I will pass it over to Representative Hudson. Just really quickly, the caveat to this, which is so bizarre in Minnesota, is the fact that state employees, by and large, are Democrats and they vote Democrat. And the Walz Administration, including Flanagan and his former chief of staff, Schmitter, were so brutal that these former Democrat employees want nothing to do with the Democrat party anymore in Minnesota because they have been treated so horrifically.

Mr. HUDSON. What is so sinister about this is that you are right, that it absolutely is for electoral benefit and political benefit, but it is sold to one half of the population, and to the independents and to the conservatives as we are giving people a hand up, we are going to help people who are in need, we are going to give them a temporary way back into working life, but they have set up an industry that was perpetual where people just stay where they are at.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Right. So, there is really an electoral incentive to make sure people do not get out of poverty. I will give you another question. I used to be in the state legislature myself in Wisconsin, and I know that when you put together your budget, you have Fed funds, unlike money that, you know, Wisconsin was getting in through our own income or sales tax.

Insofar as the legislature's claim with Fed funds, you are not exactly as maybe careful with every dollar that is flowing through, and I am trying to think what we can do to prevent this, because

you are always going to have given political parties who think they can benefit from government largesse, and I think government, by its nature sometimes, is a little sloppy. Do you think that Minnesota government would be a little bit more careful here if, on the various programs, and it varies from program to program, but if the state had to pick up 10 or 15 or 20 or 30 percent of program so that they had skin in the game?

Ms. ROBBINS. Thank you, sir. Yes, in a lot of these programs, the state does have skin in the game, so many of them, Minnesota roughly, has a 50/50 Medicaid match, so many of them, it is Federal tax dollars, but it is also state tax dollars, so we are paying for it twice for our state tax dollars and then when we pay our Federal.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Right. I know. I think Wisconsin, when I was there, was about a 60/40 match with the Feds picking up 60. And that came into play, but I gather there are some programs on here that maybe the state matches zero. Is that accurate?

Ms. ROBBINS. I would have to look at each program. I do not know for sure.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. I will ask you just as state legislators and, you know, different state legislators look at this question differently. Do you think, as a country, on some of these programs we should be asking some of the programs that are 100 percent Fed-funded now would be better off if they were maybe 70 percent Fed-funded or 75 percent Fed-funded so the states that have a little bit more of a skin in the game? I will put it that way.

And, a concern I would have insofar as the programs with the state is picking up nothing, really the incentive is to have more graft, because you just bring in Fed funds for the state.

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir. So, we need to make sure that states have skin in the game so that they administer the programs properly, because otherwise, their incentive is to draw down more Federal money, more Federal money to take the burden off state taxpayers. But we are all taxpayers, so somebody is paying. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Right. And not just no such thing as a free lunch. It encourages state legislators to look the other way, because you just bring in that money into the state. I kind of felt that way about Medicaid. Thanks.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time is expired. I am sorry, Glenn, the time is expired on that.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes—who is next? Ms. Simon.

Ms. SIMON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record a January 6, 2026, article from *The New York Times*, "Health Department to Freeze \$10 Billion in Funding to Five Democratic States."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. SIMON. Thank you, sir.

I appreciate us having this conversation, and I do apologize to our witnesses, being in the last briefing took us out of this space, but you coming here to provide us some opportunity to discuss this is important. Because I think it is true we have to recognize that

fraud is fraud, and theft is theft, and anybody, and I say anyone who takes away food out of the mouths of children, who denies childcare to women, particularly young women who are going to school and working and doing everything right, who need a little hand up. I do not know who in here has had to walk their baby to childcare and go to school full-time and work full-time as a young mom? I know I did. And I know that I received, but 27 years ago, childcare stipends, so we can be mad at the criminals in every state, including your state, who took resources from children.

But I also want to go back to the unanimous consent that I just talked about. I think we do not have to go too far back, maybe two days, to recognize that the President of the United States and the Administration is halting billions of dollars now, billions of dollars to childcare providers and centers around this country. In fact, I have a story that we just received in my office. We heard today that there needs to be accountability, but what about accountability to a young woman that we talked to today in our office who was told by her childcare center, and she is going to school full-time at the local community college, that the President of the United States will be halting all funding, and within six weeks she may not have an opportunity to continue her studies, because guess what? There is a party in power that wants to punish the poor, not just in Democratic states, but all over the country: the reducing of SNAP benefits, the shocking taking away of resources from sick children, the halting—the halting—and I will say it again, the stopping of clinical trials for sick babies.

What we will do, as Democrats, is acknowledge that fraud is fraud. What we will not do is allow a conversation to go on to problematize immigrants in this country writ large.

Can you imagine a society where we took the wrong of a small few and relegated that wrong to a whole community? Well, that is what we are doing here today, not just in Minnesota, but now accusing thousands and thousands of childcare providers all over the country before they get their day in court, proposing that they, in fact, should not be taking care of kids across the country. I think it is shocking.

This story that I want to end my quick testimony with: Nancy Harvey, she is a childcare provider in Oakland, California, where I represent a beautiful constituency. She is in my congressional district. Nancy has been a long-term childcare provider, an advocate for early care and education for our babies, no matter who their parents vote for—services that we know that are critical for every child—every child.

Collective punishment is what the folks across the aisle want to do. We know it is wrong, it is reckless. And the Trump Administration, we believe, must immediately reverse course so that families have access to vital Federal funds that they are entitled to.

Because you have a party that says they want everyone to work in this country. You want everyone to do their fair share. And yet, because we are so angry at a small, few folks who in fact broke the law, that we want to create a collective punishment for all poor people, working families, who are trying to do their best.

I do not have any questions, because they have been answered. This is a politic of cruelty. This is a politic of anti-family. This is a politic of anti-poverty.

And for someone who grew up in poverty, I know how it feels when you wait and wait and wait to just get a chance to do better, and folks who have never met you, talked to you, believed in you, or loved you are telling you, you are not worth it. That is what this Administration is doing to millions of children because of this halting of funding.

And I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Higgins from Louisiana.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Robbins and Mr. Hudson, Ms. Rarick, you are all members of the Minnesota State legislature. Is that correct?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. HIGGINS. And, Ms. Robbins, you are the Chair of the Fraud Prevention Oversight Committee. Is that correct?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes.

Mr. HIGGINS. And, Mr. Hudson and Ms. Rarick, you are members of that Committee as well, correct?

Mr. HUDSON. Yes, sir.

Ms. RARICK. That is correct.

Mr. HIGGINS. All right. So, you three, collectively, America should clearly understand, you have an excellent perspective of what is going on inside Minnesota and specifically in regards to the fraud that we are investigating and discussing today. Is that correct?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes.

Mr. HUDSON. Yes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Okay.

So, we have a particular community, a Somali community, in Minnesota that has stunning percentages that are participating in government programs where they are drawing a lot of money, big money—this has been discussed and revealed and reported and is factual.

You have a tremendous amount of criminal fraud taking place that one of my colleagues—the gentleman from the other side of the aisle mentioned transparency. I would argue that, from a regular American's perspective, it is quite transparent that something criminal is going on when you have billions of dollars disappearing into childcare centers with no children in them and you have a tremendous transfer of wealth into a relatively small immigrant community.

You have \$9 billion—that is \$9,000 million—dollars missing in the last few years that is alleged to be fraudulently stolen. You have—they are sending money—the Somali community in Minnesota is sending money, big money, overseas. They are contributing money, big money, to Democrat candidates and elected officials.

The Democratic political machine in Minnesota has benefited from this criminal network of Somali immigrants who have systematically stolen billions of dollars of Federal charitable money, essentially. The good lady, my colleague, you know, clarified this is

money designed for poor folk that need a hand up, and we generally want that to happen in America in an effective manner.

So, this is the scenario that we are looking into today.

Have I summed it up fairly well, Ms. Robbins?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir. And I would just like to add—

Mr. HIGGINS. Before you add—Mr. Hudson, is this an effective summary, sir?

Mr. HUDSON. Yes, sir, it is.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you.

Ms. Rarick?

Ms. RARICK. Yes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you.

So, from the perspective of members of the Fraud Investigative Committee of the Minnesota State legislature, we have a large criminal network with high percentages of participation in that criminal network from the Somali community in Minnesota. That community has tremendous influence within the political arena, specifically within the Democrat political arena, in Minnesota. The Democrat political machine has been covering for this criminal network.

And here we go to Governor Walz's involvement here, which is shocking to me, quite frankly, because I have been friendly with Governor Walz for many years. I served with him here.

But can you discuss for me the Governor's Administration's involvement in intimidation and oppression and retaliation against whistleblowers?

Ms. Robbins, have you had conversations with whistleblowers who have been treated like that by the Walz Administration?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, I have.

Mr. HIGGINS. And can you tell us about that? Without naming the person or revealing stuff that is secret, tell us how that retaliation would happen.

Ms. ROBBINS. So, it happens in a variety of ways. They are demoted or reassigned, or they are told that they could lose their job and then their house or their pension or their retirement benefits or not qualify for unemployment. So, it is—

Mr. HIGGINS. Well, that is very serious—that is a very serious allegation. I would say that is criminal retaliation.

Mr. Hudson and Ms. Rarick, have you seen similar?

Mr. HUDSON. I would defer to Representative Rarick.

Ms. RARICK. Yes. So, Representative Robbins and, once in a while, Representative Hudson have had multiple conversations with whistleblowers, and that is exactly what they said to us, especially in a face-to-face meeting in Saint Paul. That is exactly what they said.

Mr. HIGGINS. Unbelievable.

Mr. Chairman, my time has expired, but this leans into the criminal spectrum, sir. I yield.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Walkinshaw from Virginia.

Mr. MIN. I think I was here first, but—

Chairman COMER. They told me Walkinshaw.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. I am happy to defer.

Chairman COMER. I am just doing what the Democrat staff says. Walkinshaw is next.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me just start with something simple I think we are all agreed upon today: Fraud is real, fraud is wrong, and fraud should be prosecuted, period. And those who stole taxpayer dollars in Minnesota or anywhere else should face the full force of the law.

But what we are seeing today and the premise of this hearing is selective outrage about fraud. Because if my Republican colleagues actually cared about stopping fraud, they would not be defending the one President in modern history who is systematically tearing down the institutions designed to prevent it, the one President in history who has pardoned fraudster after fraudster after fraudster.

But Donald Trump did not just pardon those convicted of fraud; he has gone after the people whose job it is to find fraud. He fired the independent Inspector General at the State Department. He fired the independent Inspector General of the Intelligence Community. He removed the acting Inspector General at Health and Human Services in the middle of a pandemic as massive emergency funds were going out the door. He pushed out the Defense Department IG.

And why has Trump gone after these independent Inspectors General? Simple: In each case, they were investigating his or his Administration's misconduct and fraud.

Donald Trump's approach to fraud is to fire the referees and then say that the game is clean because no one blows the whistle. And he has not stopped with IGs. He has repeatedly attacked prosecutors, law enforcement, and career public servants who investigated misconduct that was politically inconvenient for him. He has turned oversight and fraud prevention into a Donald Trump loyalty test. That is not draining the swamp.

So, forgive me if I find it difficult to take seriously lectures about fraud from people who have cheered while the most corrupt President in modern history has dismantled protection after protection against fraud. You do not get to scream "Fraud!" on Tuesday after you fired the fraud investigators on Monday.

We can protect taxpayers. We can root out corruption and fraud. But we cannot do it by turning fraud into a political weapon and ignoring the record of the person who did more than anyone to weaken accountability.

Representative Robbins, in Minnesota, the Governor does not have authority to pardon independently. There is a board, I think, and the Governor is a member of that board with the Attorney General and some others. But if that board in Minnesota were to pardon individuals convicted of fraud, clearly convicted of fraud, do you think a pardon like that would damage your efforts to root out corruption and fraud in Minnesota?

Ms. ROBBINS. It would really depend on the specifics of the facts of the case and the law, and I—

Mr. WALKINSHAW. So, you are not willing to say that?

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. I am not going to comment on a hypothetical.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. You are not going to say that pardoning fraudsters would make it harder to prevent fraud in Minnesota? You are not willing to say that today?

Ms. ROBBINS. I want to root out fraud and corruption and make sure—

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Okay.

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. People are prosecuted.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. All right. You are not willing to say that. You are comfortable with fraudsters being pardoned. You do not think it would damage the work.

Ms. ROBBINS. I want everyone who has committed a crime to be prosecuted and held accountable.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. And pardoned?

Ms. ROBBINS. It would depend on the case. I do not participate in the pardon process in Minnesota, but every case is very unique, and every Governor and Attorney General should look at the specifics.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Okay.

Mr. Ballou, can you just talk us through—I know this has come up already—the firing of independent Inspectors General? The intimidation of them, making it harder to do their jobs, how does that impact fraud prevention and the prosecution of fraud, from the perspective of a former prosecutor?

Mr. BALLOU. One of the best investments that the government can make is in its Inspectors General. Last year, IGs identified an estimated \$50 billion in savings either through duplicative programs or for specifically criminal fraud.

The challenge that we have is, with, you know, 19 IGs being fired, that work literally is not happening. And there is evidence to suggest that at least some of them have been fired specifically because they were going after enemies—or, allies of this Administration.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record a *CNN* article from February 11, 2025, “USAID IG Fired Day After Report Critical of Impacts of Trump Administration’s Dismantling of the Agency.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Burchett from Tennessee.

Mr. BURCHETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I think that it needs to be said that Governor Walz needs to step down. Him saying he will stay on to investigate is like O.J. Simpson saying he will investigate the murder of his ex-wife. It just does not work out.

I have a question to the representatives.

And thank you all for being here. It is a tough gig. I did that for many years.

Do you think that the Walz Administration suppressed fraud and abuse in social service programs because they are afraid of exposing Somali residents?

And just go down the line here.

Yes, ma’am?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, not only do we think that is what happened, Mr. Burchett, but it is also what a Somali-American investigator associated with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension said. He said in an article, "Fraudsters have also sought to exploit the burgeoning political power of the Somali community and the feckless fear that establishment politicians and state agencies show when confronted with charges of racism and Islamophobia." This is from a Somali Federal prosecutor—or, investigator.

Mr. BURCHETT. Sir?

Mr. HUDSON. Indeed, it is not just a theory. We have the recording of Keith Ellison meeting with defendants in the Feeding Our Future case, where it was very explicit that the motivation for keeping scrutiny off them was based on perceived racism.

Mr. BURCHETT. Ma'am?

Ms. RARICK. From the mouth of a whistleblower: "You appear to be"—so this is what a whistleblower was told—"You appear to be holding back these contracts because they are going to a diverse community. It is not a good look."

Mr. BURCHETT. Okay.

Do you think Somalians tied to these crimes should be deported, ma'am?

Ms. ROBBINS. If they are not here legally, yes. If they are citizens, they should go through the criminal justice process. And then there might be other categories, but I would have to better understand—

Mr. BURCHETT. I agree. So, some of these—I mean, some of these folks are born here and then they are—or are naturalized, so they would have the constitutional protection thereof. So, yes, ma'am.

Sir?

Mr. HUDSON. If there is any legal pathway to do so, absolutely.

Mr. BURCHETT. Ma'am?

Ms. RARICK. So, you have got quite a big bucket of people, right? You have got people that were born here. That is a different situation. You have people that were naturalized.

Mr. BURCHETT. Right.

Ms. RARICK. And then those who are here illegally. So, you have to treat each one completely separately, with different paths.

Mr. BURCHETT. Ma'am, who is helping these folks navigate this complex grant application process?

It seems to me that it is orchestrated. They surely have got a go-to. We have always found that out in my dealings with state government, there was always somebody in there, a gatekeeper.

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. My colleague Representative Hudson could speak to it. There is sort of a cottage industry of Somali consultants who help this.

Mr. BURCHETT. I bet there is.

Yes, sir?

Mr. HUDSON. Yes, as I stated in my opening statement, I have personally talked to two gentlemen who have worked as consultants for multiple entities receiving government benefits. And they do not believe they are doing anything wrong. And by the letter of the law, they might be legally acting, but they have created an industry out of benefits that were intended to lift people up, not become a business.

Mr. BURCHETT. Do you want to add to that, ma'am?

Ms. RARICK. So, that is something that we have heard repeatedly from whistleblowers and others, that there is, yes, I would call it a cottage industry of people that, when you land on our soil, that they are going to teach you all the different ways to sign up for multiple social service programs.

And there is also that. So, they sign up for the max amount, which is probably why—there is a report that just came out on December 13 of last year that says that 81 percent of Somalis were receiving some sort of welfare in Minnesota.

Mr. BURCHETT. If you do not know the answer to this, just tell me. Do you have any knowledge or have heard any talk that the Somalis are directing any of these funds to American U.S. tax dollars to Al Shabaab terrorist organization?

Ms. ROBBINS. There have been past criminal convictions in this. And, currently, we believe it is mostly happening indirectly, as they send money to Somalia, that Al Shabaab takes a cut.

Mr. BURCHETT. Do you all agree with that? You good with that?

Do you think the design of the social service programs incentivizes fraud and abuse?

Mr. HUDSON. Absolutely. There is no doubt about it. When you are willing to hand over a sack of money to somebody on the assumption that they are going to provide a benevolent service and then you never check to see if they actually did, obviously you are going to invite fraud, waste, and abuse.

Mr. BURCHETT. Ma'am?

Ms. RARICK. Yes, absolutely. We just stood up a new program that we will probably talk about in a little bit, which is the paid family leave program. It was literally designed by Democrats to have waste, fraud, and abuse on a grand scale.

Mr. BURCHETT. Okay.

I am going to be out of time. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

But I think America—we are sick of the hearings, we are sick of all this. We need justice. We need convictions that these folks are guilty. And that needs to happen. America is sick of this, and it needs to happen.

Thank y'all so much, and thank you for your bravery.

Chairman COMER. Very well said.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Subramanyam.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am so glad that Committee Republicans finally want to talk about fraud and corruption and misuse of Federal funds. This Majority, though, has conveniently avoided this topic, but let us talk about the fraud in this Administration.

And let us start with President Trump accepting a \$400 million plane as a gift from Qatar, which the President announced he would transfer afterwards to his Presidential library—basically to himself. And then the President announced a trillion-dollar economic agreement with a Qatar and a security guarantee for them as well, an unprecedented one.

Next, Trump has also accepted hundreds of millions of dollars in undisclosed amounts for his ballroom project, including from companies who had civil and potentially criminal charges that were then dropped against them by this Administration.

And it is not just President Trump. Secretary Kristi Noem has paid more than \$200 million in DHS ad contracts last fall and bypassed the normal competitive bidding process to award some of the funds to a firm with deep ties to herself. And then Secretary Noem also spent \$170 million of taxpayer dollars on new jets, including one for her own private travel.

Family members of the President have entered into \$2 billion in business deals with the UAE Government and their government officials, while the United States conveniently then signed a major chips agreement with the UAE.

And then after his election, President Trump put \$4 billion and shares of his media company in a trust to be run by his son. And then President Trump maintained ownership of his business empire while letting his family run the day-to-day.

And then in September, Forbes estimated that President Trump's memecoin tokens were worth \$709 million and his World Liberty Financial tokens were worth more than \$338 million, but we do not know exactly how that happened.

Then President Trump also stopped the enforcement of foreign—and bribery and fraud so that we could have American companies commit fraud abroad, as well, and not get prosecuted.

President Trump also has made hundreds of visits to his own properties using taxpayer dollars, a lot of golfing included, and used his Presidency for personal profit to those properties. In 2019, the GAO reported a trip to Mar-a-Lago cost over \$3 million. And so, if you add that up, that is a lot of taxpayer money being misused and a lot of fraud.

The interim U.S. attorney for D.C. ended prosecution of a January 6 defendant after he represented that defendant in private practice.

President Trump pardoned fraudster Trevor Milton, a former CEO convicted of fraud in 2022 who, with the stroke of Trump's pen, escaped paying the \$600 million in restitution that prosecutors argued he should pay to people who have invested in his company.

According to *The Washington Post*, at least 20 people who received clemency from Trump were given forgiveness for financial penalties, totaling tens of millions of dollars.

And then President Trump pardoned Binance founder Changpeng Zhao, a money launderer, after getting support for a family crypto venture.

And then President Trump also pardoned CEO Andrew Wiederhorn for stealing \$47 million of his own money from his own company, but had his case dropped after he donated to the President.

And then President Trump also pardoned the founder of the electric vehicle company Nikola, who was convicted of fraud and donated \$1.8 million to a political committee supporting President Trump.

And prior to his confirmation, Secretary Hegseth's wife owned thousands of dollars in defense stocks, including companies that contract with the DOD. And DOD Secretary Hegseth brought his wife, who has defense company investments, to meetings with foreign defense officials at a NATO gathering where Ukraine policy was discussed.

And from recently passed funding legislation, U.S. Senators can claim over \$500,000 in taxpayer dollars over phone-record collections during the January 6 investigation. We just commemorated the fifth anniversary of January 6.

And then border czar Tom Homan dodged FBI background checks and accepted \$50,000 from undercover agents acting as businesspeople in exchange for government contracts. The DOJ investigation of that was shut down by this Administration.

President Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social, “This is a great time to buy—DJT,” less than four hours before lifting the tariffs he imposed days earlier, raising accusations of improprieties. I would say the accusations are probably well-founded.

President Trump’s FBI Director has reportedly used taxpayer dollars to escort his girlfriend’s friend home from partying in Nashville.

RFK Jr., the Secretary, refused to fully cut ties to a vaccine lawsuit against a pharmaceutical company while serving as Secretary, arranging an arrangement that profits from the suit would go to his son.

Saudi-funded golf tournaments moved events to Trump golf courses, providing a financial windfall for President Trump and his family as his Administration sets Middle East policy.

FBI Director Kash Patel refused to divest from stock holdings in a company that controls a Chinese fast-fashion firm accused of using forced labor and child labor, raising questions about the extent to which he would enforce human-trafficking laws.

President Trump’s “God Bless America Bible,” which has a \$3 production cost and \$60 tag per copy, are printed in China. The Bible, however, is exempted from Trump’s tariffs on China due to an exemption for religious materials.

And I could keep going.

Tom Krause, the CEO of Cloud Software, was hired to work on a payments system at the Treasury Department, raising questions about competitive advantages for future contracts. A Cloud Software subsidiary previously donated a million dollars to Trump’s inaugural fund.

And the first directive issued by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Secretary, Chris Wright, focused on advancing geothermal energy, which benefits Fervo, in which his former company, Liberty Energy, had invested \$10 million in.

Commerce Secretary Lutnick—

Chairman COMER. The gentleman’s time is expired. You are at 40 seconds over, and I have been cutting Members off.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. I have more.

Chairman COMER. You have what?

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. I have more, but I will yield back.

Chairman COMER. Okay.

The Chair recognizes—and you can submit anything you want to the record. We will put it in there.

The Chair recognizes—

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman COMER [continuing]. Ms. Boebert from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you to the witnesses for being here today.

Representative Robbins, did your fraud prevention committee raise formal concerns about suspected childcare fraud to DHS or state leadership before Federal indictments were issued?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, the original Federal indictments came before I was elected, back in 2015 or so. And then we thought DHS had cleaned it up, and they did not. So, we did a hearing last February 2025, and we provided them a list of childcare facilities we thought they should check out. My understanding is they have not.

And so, we are hoping that they will take this seriously and go investigate, with onsite visits, what is going on in these childcare facilities.

Ms. BOEBERT. And when you raised awareness, were the Governor, Governor Tim Walz, and the Attorney General made aware of these warnings?

Ms. ROBBINS. Oh, I am sure.

Ms. BOEBERT. Did the state leadership fail to act promptly? I mean, it kind of sounds like they did, if you still have not received any information regarding these warnings.

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. We do not know that they took any action with the list we gave them.

Ms. BOEBERT. And, Representative Robbins, what recommendations from your committee were given and ignored?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, in general, we always try to look at internal controls. And we have asked—I mean, it is not complicated. We want them to go make sure recipients are eligible, that providers are eligible, that services are actually being provided.

Our staff has gone to many of these places, and, so, it is not just the Nick Shirley video; our staff has gone and looked at this. And there are literally no one there during business hours. Some of the offices where we have the address are empty. Like, there is no furniture.

So, they are not doing their job.

Ms. BOEBERT. Thank you.

Mr. Ballou, does the Department of Justice have more resources to uncover fraud than a 20-year-old YouTuber?

Mr. BALLOU. Yes, but those resources are declining.

Ms. BOEBERT. Are they still more than a 20-year-old YouTuber with a cell phone camera?

Mr. BALLOU. Yes, as I mentioned earlier, the primary office that would be responsible for prosecuting public corruption, which is what is being alleged today, has essentially been decimated. Most of the attorneys—

Ms. BOEBERT. Okay.

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. Have been fired or left.

Ms. BOEBERT. But was it decimated when you were there? Was there funding there then?

Mr. BALLOU. Yes, so I—

Ms. BOEBERT. It was there then. So, why did the Department of Justice, under the Biden Administration, ignore repeated attempts to uncover this massive, fraudulent misuse of taxpayer dollars?

Mr. BALLOU. As you may recall, the indictment actually happened during the Biden Administration.

Ms. BOEBERT. And what action has been taken in the state to ensure that this is not happening? Because we just saw dozens and dozens of centers that are receiving hundreds of millions of dollars, collectively, that are not functionally operational.

Mr. BALLOU. Yes, well, in 2022, under the Biden Administration, over 70 people were indicted for exactly this scheme.

Ms. BOEBERT. So, Mr. Ballou, yes or no: A Medicaid program with low barriers to entry and minimal reimbursement requirements, that is something that would be highly vulnerable to fraud if oversight is weak, correct?

Mr. BALLOU. Exactly. And——

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no?

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. The challenge is that that oversight——

Ms. BOEBERT. Thank you. Yes or no.

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. Is being cut further because of the slashes.

Ms. BOEBERT. Thank you for your answer.

Mr. Ballou, yes or no: When a program projected at \$2.6 million explodes to over \$100 million annually, that is a glaring red flag.

Mr. BALLOU. The problem that we have is that all the oversight at the Federal level for this is being cut.

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no, is that a red flag, when a \$2.6 million program——

Mr. BALLOU. The challenge that we have——

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Explodes to over \$100 million? Yes or no?

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. Is the offices that are——

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no, sir?

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. Responsible for identifying those red flags are being defunded.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Ballou, yes or no: When the same individuals or networks bill multiple Medicaid programs, that indicates organized fraud.

Mr. BALLOU. And the challenge that we have is that——

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no, does that indicate fraud, when you are getting the same individuals and networks that are billing multiple Medicaid programs?

Mr. BALLOU. Precisely the offices that would identify that are being defunded.

Ms. BOEBERT. As they should be.

Mr. Ballou, yes or no: Did the Biden Administration cover this up for political reasons because uncovering fraud on this massive scale would have hurt the 2024 Democrat Vice Presidential candidate?

Mr. BALLOU. Just so I understand, are you saying that the offices that uncover fraud should be defunded?

Ms. BOEBERT. I am saying that these programs and the fraud that is taking place should be defunded.

Mr. BALLOU. My understanding is what you were just saying is that the fraud programs need to be defunded.

Ms. BOEBERT. So, no, we need to uncover these, but——

Mr. BALLOU. And the challenge that we have is that those——

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. These actual programs that are ballooning to \$100 million—and if you could get back to the question I just asked. Was this covered up because you thought it would hurt the 2024 Democrat Vice Presidential candidate?—

Mr. BALLOU. The office that would investigate—

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Governor Tim Walz? Yes or no?

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. That kind of alleged public—

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no?

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. Integrity fraud—

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no?

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. Has been defunded.

Ms. BOEBERT. In 2024, it was not defunded. And was this covered up to protect a Vice Presidential candidate, yes or no, Mr. Ballou?

Mr. BALLOU. Prior to 2024, over 70 indictments were brought under the Biden Administration.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Ballou, was this covered up to protect a political candidate?

Mr. BALLOU. Once again, that office has been defunded. And there were—

Ms. BOEBERT. Thank you, Mr. Ballou. I am sorry that you are not—

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. Over 70 indictments brought under the Biden Administration.

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Answering questions before this Committee correctly.

Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Thank you.

The Chair now recognizes Ms. Tlaib from Michigan.

Ms. TLAIB. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you all so much for being here.

I think, as someone who has served in a statehouse, I know how important it is, no matter if there is a “D” or “R” next to, you know, any name of anybody that is in charge, to make sure we root out any sort of fraud, scams, because we know it hurts everyone.

But as a Muslim American, I have got to ask you all, as a public servant, because—you know, Representatives Robbins, Hudson, Rarick, like, do you believe every Somali in Minnesota is engaged in fraud right now, yes or no?

You can start.

Ms. ROBBINS. No.

Mr. HUDSON. No.

Ms. RARICK. Absolutely not.

Ms. TLAIB. Do you believe that Muslims are demons?

Ms. ROBBINS. No.

Mr. HUDSON. No.

Ms. RARICK. Absolutely not. That is a ridiculous thing to even say. I hope nobody says that.

Ms. TLAIB. Yes.

Well, I just think it is really important, as you all do the job that you need to do, to also root out hate and divisive language that put, you know—you can imagine a child listening to that. You know what I mean? And they are seeing that. And I am telling you, as somebody that grew up Muslim in America, sometimes you are just

listening to that and you feel other'ed, you feel like you are less than, that maybe the things that are being said are true.

And so, you know, Mr. Chair, I have to submit for the record—this is, I know this is not your only source, I heard you, but, you know, “Unnamed Source in Viral Minnesota Somali Fraud Video is Right-Wing Lobbyist Who Called Muslims ‘Demons’.”

But why this is more disturbing—and I do not know if any of you shared it—but I want you to know who shared it despite this and all the falsehoods that my colleagues have already highlighted in a very, very shameful way, that this video has been shared widely and proudly by Attorney General Pam Bondi, by FBI Director Kash Patel, by Vice President JD Vance, who actually called the video, quote, “far more useful journalism than any of the winners of the 2024 Pulitzer Prizes.”

The video creator, Nick Shirley, has built this career, right, on a lot of Islamophobia and dehumanization that I just feel, as public servants, as you root out fraud—and you have to—that you do not make it out that it is about the Somali community. It is about maybe not having the checks and balances and maybe, again, wanting to do that.

But I urge you all, because this is the same person that also talked about a community I represent in the city of Dearborn. And, again, there are children watching. And I say this: that racist rhetoric, no matter faith or ethnicity, against any of our neighbors is not going to prevent fraud. Doing this will not prevent fraud.

We already saw, like, Trump Administration using this story to pretext sending 2,000 Federal agents to target and harass the Somali-American community. I mean, do you agree with that, sending troops in?

Ms. ROBBINS. I do not think ICE agents are troops. And ICE agents should be able to do their job anywhere in America.

Ms. TLAIB. I am so sorry. I meant Federal agents. You are right. I meant Federal agents, ma'am.

Do you believe Federal agents should come in and—2,000 Federal agents should come into your state?

Ms. ROBBINS. I think ICE agents should be doing their job anywhere in America. It is their jurisdiction, and if there are criminals—

Ms. TLAIB. But that is not the response of the President. So, if you—

Ms. ROBBINS. If there are criminals who need to be deported—

Ms. TLAIB. I understand.

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. They should be deported.

Ms. TLAIB. But that is not what is going to happen.

Representative Hudson?

Mr. HUDSON. I absolutely welcome immigration enforcement in the State of Minnesota.

Ms. TLAIB. Yes, but do you think it is really immigration enforcement? Because they are racially profiling. They are going to just stop people that look Somali or look Muslim or ethnic and just harass them.

And I am telling you as somebody that, for the first time ever, my mother, in 50 years being here—and the sweetest woman. She would feed anybody. She does not care if you are a Republican,

Democrat, she would make sure you are not hungry and fed. And she is carrying a passport for the first time in her life here because she knows because she wears a hijab she might be stopped by ICE agents.

Is that the kind of militarization—I know you will not get stopped. But somebody like my mother and somebody like your Somali-American neighbors in Minnesota will be stopped in a way that is dehumanizing. They do it in front of kids. They do not care.

And I am saying this to you and asking all of you: do your job, but do not allow your job and what you are doing to be utilized as a racist trope, that all Somali-Americans are criminals, that Muslims are demons. It is incredibly dangerous.

And so, you know, Representatives Robbins, Hudson, Rarick, you know, one of the things that—the collective punishment, right? I mean, the fact that now I am seeing the Trump Administration say, “Okay, we are going to cut childcare and social services to California, Illinois, New York, Minnesota, Colorado.” Like, is that really the answer? Is that going to prevent fraud? Do you believe cutting 23,000 kids from childcare—do you think that is going to prevent fraud?

Ms. ROBBINS. To my understanding, it is not being cut. If they can document that the actual children are there and that they have attendance records, they will get the funding. So, this is a misnomer—

Ms. TLAIB. All right.

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. Saying it is all going to be cut.

Ms. TLAIB. Okay.

Ms. ROBBINS. It is not true.

Ms. TLAIB. We will see.

Representative Hudson?

Mr. HUDSON. I tend not to blame firemen for water damage when they put out a fire.

Ms. TLAIB. Okay.

Mr. HUDSON. And that is what is going on.

Ms. TLAIB. So, you are good with them cut—okay.

How about you?

Ms. RARICK. I believe in the due process of law. And so, back to your comment about your dear mother—

Ms. TLAIB. Yes.

Ms. RARICK [continuing]. Because she wears a hijab and she has to carry her passport. So, I think that every person has value. Everyone is a child of God, right? And we may have a different name, but here is the thing, is that they all deserve respect.

Ms. TLAIB. Absolutely.

Ms. RARICK. They all deserve kindness, they all deserve the process of law—

Ms. TLAIB. Absolutely.

Ms. RARICK [continuing]. And due process. And so—

Ms. TLAIB. And I will tell you—

Ms. RARICK [continuing]. That is what we believe in.

Ms. TLAIB. And I see it among my community. It is a very diverse community. We are calling people on other, you know, folks that are—no matter what their background is—because we do not want any criminal activity or fraud, because we know it hurts ev-

erybody. But I am asking all of you, as you do this, your job, call out against the racist comments. Protect everyone in Minnesota, no matter their faith or ethnicity.

Chairman COMER. The gentle—

Ms. TLAIK. So, be careful in sharing these—I am sorry, Chairman. This is important.

Be careful, as you do your job, not to allow people that you all are trying to root out fraud to be used as a ploy to go after Muslims and Somali-Americans.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired. Thank you.

Before I recognize Mr. Cloud, Mr. Gill has a unanimous consent request.

Mr. GILL. Sure. Yup. This is from the *Minnesota Reformer*. "A Somali-American Former Investigator: Why You are Hearing About Fraud in My Community."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair now—do you have another one?

Mr. GILL. No, Mr. Chairman, just one.

Chairman COMER. Okay.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Cloud from Texas for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLOUD. Thank you, Chairman.

And I appreciate you holding this hearing. It is important, as you have mentioned at the outset, that we continue our work to uncover waste, fraud, and abuse, and, especially in holding this hearing, kind of bring some light to this issue that the media—really, they were scooped. And so—in the sense that they are having to cover this issue when really they should have been the ones to investigate and reveal this is telling.

No doubt there is fraud everywhere. When you are spending trillions of dollars, there are going to be pockets of fraud. But one of the things that has been revealing this year as we worked through the DOGE process is uncovering the extent of the fraud, how it has been systemized, weaponized, and how it is—we have really unveiled that it is the world's, history's, largest money-laundering scheme.

Much of this should be a bipartisan issue to go after the waste, fraud, and abuse, but what we found out is, much of the taxpayer funding is going to uphold leftist organizations and their campaign practices and the like.

What is particularly telling about this issue in Minnesota is not the fact that there is waste, fraud, and abuse. No doubt that is happening in a number of states, and we need to continue the work to clean it up. But the way that this has been systemized, institutionalized, and the corrupt and corrosive nature and even criminal coercion that went on from the Governor's office and his Administration is particularly troubling.

I think it is notable that the Biden Administration was aware of this even as they tried to sell the Harris-Walz Administration on the American people. And perhaps that is, you know, why we did not see this come to light as we should.

But, Representative Hudson, I appreciated something you said in your testimony, in the sense that these—you said how the structure of these programs creates incentives that reliably produce the

waste, fraud, and abuse across multiple service areas regardless of the program or intent.

And this is kind of what we see oftentimes, that, you know, for good intentions maybe, Congress upstands these programs. Over the decades, what we have seen is they have expanded to where many of them almost end up being a system of waste, fraud, and abuse with a veneer of care and concern for people. And our job in Congress is to help bring the tools to make sure that that does not happen.

And so, the Ranking Member said, you know, where fraud existed, we should look into it and we should hold people accountable. What we see coming from the left a lot of times is, they are fine with the reactionary—"We are fine in bringing prosecutions after the fact because the money's already gone out. We are fine with prosecuting people who do ballot harvesting once the ballots are in the pot and we cannot separate them." But it is far better for us to prevent it.

I would like to talk to—I will start with you, Mr. Hudson, but if y'all want to jump in—what controls states should be putting in, but really it comes down to us in saying, whatever Federal dollars you are receiving, you should be getting these controls in place.

So, could you speak to the institutionalization of this fraud and the schemes that are in place and maybe list some examples and then speak to some of the controls that you would recommend that we take on legislatively to make sure states are doing their job?

Mr. HUDSON. It is a very big question, and I will try to be concise.

So, I have not put a whole lot of thought into what Congress should do, given my state legislative role, but I can tell you that states are primarily responsible for the administration of these programs—for setting up rules, for engaging in verification and compliance. And so, what I imagine Congress can do is provide either incentive or some form of, for lack of a better term, punishment to states who fail to do that properly.

Mr. CLOUD. Currently, states are actually incentivized, in a sense, to game the system against the American taxpayer.

Mr. HUDSON. A hundred percent.

Mr. CLOUD. Yes.

Mr. HUDSON. Absolutely.

And so, the program in—the programs in Minnesota need to be redesigned from top to bottom. I mean, there needs to be, like, a demolition and a rebuild.

Because the way they are currently structured, I think most Americans, when they think about benefit programs, they think about, like, their neighbor and how they would help out their neighbor. But that is not how these programs work. It is not relational. It does not come with expectations or gratitude or an incentive to make your life better. It is set up to create a perpetual industry out of taking money from taxpayers.

Mr. CLOUD. Yes, that is, that is troubling.

Would you like to speak to that?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. I think one of the most practical things you can do is to require documentation from the recipient and from the provider.

In Minnesota, most of these providers are set up—and the recipients—based on attestation, and nobody then goes and checks, are they really eligible? Are the services actually being provided? We had the Housing Stabilization Program, they estimate 90 percent of it was fraud. Nobody checked if services were actually being provided.

And I think you could also require repayment to the feds if there is fraud. And that would make states pay attention to administration, if they had to repay the money if it was not spent on the proper services.

Mr. CLOUD. Thank you. Those are a few good tips. We will hopefully stay in communication.

My time is up.

Chairman COMER. The Chair—

Mr. CLOUD. I know we opened up a can of worms there that could take another hour or two, but thank you, Chairman. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Min.

Mr. MIN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Appreciate today's hearing.

And I am deeply concerned about the allegations of fraud that we are learning about around the disbursement of social services funding in Minnesota. This is fraud of the worst kind. It is literally taking food out of the mouths of hungry kids so that people can enrich themselves.

And just for your clarification, I have spent—actually, spent my career fighting fraud. My first job out of law school was at the SEC. This was in the aftermath of another major set of frauds, the Enron and WorldCom accounting scandals, which, of course, were in the private sector, not the public sector.

In Congress, this has been my, just over a year at this point, but I was happy to sponsor H.R. 1156, a Republican-led bill that came before this Committee last year. And I think that we need aggressive enforcement and accountability when it comes to taxpayer dollars and their disbursement.

That being said, I have concerns about this hearing as well as recent actions taken by the Trump Administration. And it is hard for me not to look at this hearing and the context in which it is taking place and not see this as a partisan and racist hearing, and for the reasons mentioned by my colleague.

But we have not had other hearings when it comes to fraud that takes place in Republican-led states. We have not had hearings in this Committee, as far as I am aware, and on another committee this year, as long as I have been in Congress, that go after those who are not Somali-American.

And so, I hope you all can appreciate that by holding this hearing in isolation of any other hearings around oversight or fraud, that it looks like we are going after one community in one state when we know it is rampant.

So, I guess, my first question to y'all—and you all can raise your hand, or if you do not want to raise your hand, feel free to not raise your hand, but—do you believe that fraud only takes place in Democratic-led states?

Ms. ROBBINS. No.

Mr. HUDSON. No.

Mr. MIN. And do you believe that fraud only takes place in Somali communities?

Mr. HUDSON. No.

Ms. RARICK. Absolutely not.

Ms. ROBBINS. No.

Mr. MIN. And would it surprise you to know that the Congress has not done hearings on either frauds that have taken place in Republican-led states or on frauds that have taken place in non-Somalian communities—

Ms. RARICK. So—

Mr. MIN [continuing]. This year, since I have taken Congress, this Oversight Committee in particular, in this session?

Ms. RARICK. The Minnesota legislature, we are literally drowning in fraud.

Mr. MIN. That was a yes/no question, so I am going to reclaim my time, so thank you very much.

Ms. RARICK. And, so, we spend all of our time doing that.

Mr. MIN. And so, I would just say that if this was a serious hearing, if this was a more serious attempt at oversight, we would be looking across the board.

And this is also hard to not take in the context of President Trump's announcement, I think just yesterday, that he would be—illegally, I would add—withholding funds for childcare and other purposes from states led by Democratic Governors, including not only Minnesota but my home state of California as well as several others.

Kids are going to go hungry in my district, when we have not seen evidence of any type of fraud on the scale we are talking about in California, in Colorado, in Illinois. And yet Donald Trump is withholding funds from those states. And so, it looks like a very partisan effort here to go after blue states. Ten billion dollars is being withheld—\$10 billion. And we already have struggling people right now trying to pay the bills because of rising healthcare costs, inflation, et cetera. It is cruel and vindictive.

It is also, I think, another example of the ways in which President Trump and this Committee and this Republican-led Congress look increasingly like they are weaponizing the government to go after Democrats and people they perceive as their political critics, rather than going out and trying to address fraud in all ways, shapes, and forms.

We know, for example, that there have been massive frauds that have been uncovered in places like Florida, Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. And I want to highlight Mississippi because Mississippi has made a lot of news recently because they have had the largest public corruption scandal in their history. And yet, this Committee has not addressed that once. We have not done a hearing on it. There have been no letters or inquiries, as far as I understand, this year in my time in Congress. So, this is quite problematic. It includes celebrities like Brett Favre, we all know about. And so, it is very problematic to me that we are not actually doing this.

Now, Mr. Ballou, you mentioned earlier that, you know, it is hard to uncover fraud or know about fraud or learn the motivations

when we are getting rid of Inspectors General. I think that was your implication.

And I just want to lean into that just a little bit, because I think what the Republicans have done in your state actually makes a lot of sense to me—receiving tips from the public, investigating those tips, and then trying to provide transparency around your findings. And yet that is, Mr. Ballou, that is what Inspectors General do, right?

Mr. BALLOU. That is precisely their job.

Mr. MIN. And would it surprise you to know that this Committee, which is tasked with overseeing the Federal Government, has done zero hearings since Donald Trump fired all the Inspectors General at the beginning of his term?

Mr. BALLOU. That is unfortunate.

Mr. MIN. We really cannot have a discussion around fraud, misuse of taxpayer dollars, or waste, if we are not talking about the fact that we just got rid of all the people that are supposed to oversee that.

So, I have one last question here and—

Chairman COMER. Your time is expired.

Mr. MIN. Okay.

Chairman COMER. You have gone over a minute. But you—

Mr. MIN. No, I did not go over a minute. I went seven seconds over.

[Crosstalk.]

Chairman COMER [continuing]. Criticize firing the Inspectors General when you admit there is massive fraud in Republican states too. The IGs have failed.

Mr. MIN. Can I ask you—

Chairman COMER. Why should we keep funding these agencies when there is evidence that the money has been defrauded?

Mr. MIN. I have a parliamentary inquiry for you, sir.

Chairman COMER. Well, go ahead.

Mr. MIN. Are we allowed to use this Committee's resources to only go after fraud or states of one party?

Chairman COMER. No. We can go after fraud in any party.

Mr. MIN. So, are we going to go after—are we going to look into Mississippi the way that we are looking into Minnesota?

Chairman COMER. If you bring stuff forward, you have whistleblowers come forward, we will look after it in any state.

Mr. MIN. You will hold a hearing. Do I have your commitment on that?

Chairman COMER. Well, it depends on the evidence.

Mr. MIN. There is clear evidence out there.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Burlison from Missouri.

Mr. MIN. I ask unanimous consent to introduce—

Mr. BURLISON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MIN [continuing]. An article—

Chairman COMER. I have already recognized Mr. Burlison.

Mr. MIN [continuing]. Which is—

Mr. BURLISON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

And, actually, I would like to remind the Committee that this party, this side of the aisle, has dedicated tremendous resources to

rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. In fact, the Chairman set up a Committee called “DOGE” that the other side of the aisle, you know, demonized and criticized our efforts, in which we had multiple hearings to identify waste, fraud, and abuse throughout all of the government agencies.

And so, I applaud the Chairman and this side for the work that we have been doing.

But, you know, sadly, Minnesota has become an example because of the extent of the waste and the fraud. I have to ask. It must be embarrassing for the citizens of Minnesota, Chairwoman Robbins.

Ms. ROBBINS. So, I am not embarrassed to be from Minnesota, but I am frustrated and angry about the theft of taxpayer money.

Mr. BURLISON. My—I have family that live in Minnesota. It is a wonderful state. And I know that they are angry, that they are very frustrated.

So, I think that—we talk about the amount of money that is being wasted, \$9 billion. That seems like an abstract amount, but let us break that down. Nine billion dollars stolen from less than six million citizens of Minnesota, correct?

That is, per individual—imagine, right?—you know, every citizen of Minnesota, your bank account, suddenly someone took \$1,500 out of your bank account. Every taxpayer—there are around three million citizens—or, taxpayers in Minnesota. Every taxpayer just had \$3,000 stolen from their bank account.

How does that feel to a citizen of Minnesota?

Ms. ROBBINS. Minnesotans are so frustrated because not only have we had that money stolen from us, but we had an \$18-billion surplus that Tim Walz spent and then raised our taxes \$11 billion and left us with a \$6-billion deficit. So, we have had the fiscal mismanagement on top of the fraud, and Minnesotans are completely fed up.

Mr. BURLISON. You know, in Missouri—there is also an opportunity cost to all that money. So, in Missouri, we just, you know, green-lit a project to add more lanes to I-70, which runs from one end of the state to the other, and it was only—it was less than \$3 billion.

You could imagine: People in Minnesota could enjoy adding additional lanes on Interstate—on three of your interstates—I-35, I-94, I-90. Don’t you think the people of Minnesota would love to have wider lanes—or, more lanes added to their highway infrastructure?

Ms. ROBBINS. They absolutely would.

But even if we stayed in the social service realm, there was \$104 million in one year that was fraudulent in the Housing Stabilization Service. If we could have taken that \$104 million and put it into supportive housing, we would have done a lot to solve the homelessness problem.

So, every time these dollars are fraudulently stolen, it is a huge opportunity cost for Minnesotans.

Mr. BURLISON. Absolutely.

And you have been sounding the alarm for quite some time. Why has it taken until 2025 for these to fully come to light?

Ms. ROBBINS. The Fraud Prevention and State Oversight Committee was formed in 2025 once we—

Mr. BURLISON. Okay.

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. Had a tie in the House.

Mr. BURLISON. So, when the Republicans took majority, you finally—or, you were able to actually root out the waste, fraud, and abuse in Minnesota, which is why we now know about it.

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. We are in a tie, technically, but we were able to negotiate this as part of the power-sharing agreement.

Mr. BURLISON. I seek unanimous consent, Mr. Chairman, to enter into the record an article from the *New York Post*, “Former Homeland Security Agent Claims Prosecutors Ignored Minnesota Day Care Fraud Cases: ‘Just Evaporated.’”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. BURLISON. Thank you.

So, there has been investigations been going on for some time. I understand you do not report them—or, have really kind of bypassed the state agencies. You report directly to the Federal Government. Can you elaborate on why that is? It is pretty obvious why, but.

Ms. ROBBINS. So, when my staff—we have a very small staff. We have one researcher on our Committee, and then we as members also do a lot of our own research. And when we get an investigation that is credible, we do as much research as we can, but, as I said earlier, we do not have access to bank records, health records, or the state payments system. And so, based on that, when we get something that is credible, we turn it over to the Office of Legislative Auditor and to the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

I have been accused of hiding whistleblower data from the department, but when the department comes to hearings, we provide documents every time. I have flagged 72 childcare centers. We have given them lists of all of the housing—multiple addresses where there are more than five providers, sometimes up to 22 providers, at the same address. They have done nothing with it.

But what I do not give them is the whistleblower information, because I am protecting our whistleblowers in Minnesota. They finally are stepping up, and I have their back.

Mr. BURLISON. Good for you. And I appreciate you for doing that.

And then, finally, with that, I will end. I have more articles to submit for the record, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Do you want to submit them now, or are you going to submit them—okay. Proceed.

Mr. BURLISON. Okay. One is an article produced that was about childcare welfare fraud.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. BURLISON. A report produced by the Office of the Legislative Auditor of Minnesota, “Child Care Assistance Program: Assessment of Fraud Allegations.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. BURLISON. And then from the Minnesota House Research Group, “The Child Care Assistance Program and the Fraud Within.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. BURLISON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Frost from Florida.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is very important that we eliminate fraud in our social programs, and I am glad that Governor Walz has taken real, concrete steps in Minnesota to combat fraud, like signing legislation that strengthens the state agencies' ability to detect, prevent, and prosecute fraud, and establishing a statewide Inspector General Coordinating Council and appointing an independent state auditor to investigate claims.

Mr. Ballou, how will these actions help uncover and prevent fraud in the state?

Mr. BALLOU. Well, it is the funding and staffing that is necessary to uncover fraud that is happening at a state level. But that staffing is not being mirrored at the Federal level.

Mr. FROST. What do you mean by that?

Mr. BALLOU. Well, bluntly, most of the enforcement mechanisms for going after white-collar crime are being decimated, especially in the Justice Department but also the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr. FROST. Of course.

As you have pointed out, you know, it is important for Governors to play a big role in fighting fraud in their state.

I want to give you a hypothetical. Let us say that you have a state's Governor that funnels millions of dollars from the state's money over to the Governor's wife's nonprofit. Let us say then that nonprofit takes that same money and gives it to political action committees that help her husband's causes.

Would that be worth investigating?

Mr. BALLOU. Absolutely.

Mr. FROST. Well, what say the rest of the witnesses? In that hypothetical, is that something we should also investigate?

Ms. RARICK. So, I do not think we are in a place to talk about hypotheticals, but thank you for the question.

Mr. FROST. The rest of the witnesses, you do not think we should investigate fraud?

What do you think?

Mr. HUDSON. I think I came here prepared to talk about the fraud that is taking place in my state—

Mr. FROST. Okay.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. And I want to contain my testimony to the purpose of the hearing.

Mr. FROST. Representative Robbins?

Ms. ROBBINS. I think we should investigate credible allegations of fraud wherever they are. But we do not—

Mr. FROST. Thank you. I 100 percent—

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. Know the specifics of that—

Mr. FROST [continuing]. Agree with you, Representative.

Ms. ROBBINS [continuing]. Circumstance.

Mr. FROST. And, actually, you know, I want to talk about something that is really important, because my colleague Dave Min just brought up something. And, you know, Chair Comer, you had said, if there are credible allegations, if there is evidence, we should look into it, and I have something for us to look into.

This is not a hypothetical. This happened in my State of Florida. Governor Ron DeSantis, Casey DeSantis, and the Hope Florida Foundation have been subject to a bipartisan investigation and

now a criminal investigation for this exact same thing I just talked about.

So, if we are going to be here going state by state in this Committee talking about fraud, I am okay with doing that, but let us make sure it is not just Democratic states, like Dave Min said, and let us also look at Republican-led states as well.

Because what happened in my State of Florida is, \$10 million of Medicaid money was funneled to the Governor's wife's nonprofit. Then that nonprofit took that money and gave it to political action committees helping her husband.

I would like to enter for the record a unanimous consent for *The New York Times*' "Why Did a Charity Tied to Casey DeSantis Suddenly Get a \$10 Million Boost?"

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. FROST. Chair Comer, will you commit to working with me to schedule a hearing on this?

Chairman COMER. Get the stuff to me, and we will definitely look at. Ten million dollars. We are talking about \$9 billion today.

Mr. FROST. So, does the \$10 million—

Chairman COMER. Yes, get that to me. Appreciate it.

Mr. FROST. Yes, I will get it to you. I will get it to you. Definitely a lower amount of money, but \$10 million in Medicaid money going to—being funneled from taxpayer Floridians to political action committees is fraud and is criminal. And this is a bipartisan investigation looked at by both Democrats and Republicans, and I definitely expect this Committee to do the same thing.

And I have one more thing I want to talk about that Representative Ansari brought up. President Trump reposted conspiracy theories on his Truth Social account about the murder of Minnesota State legislators Mark and Melissa Hortman that suggest that Minnesota Governor Tim Walz had the Hortmans assassinated.

Governor Walz says this behavior will get more innocent people killed. And the Hortman children have come out on the President and called on the President to take the statements down.

I think it is very important that we are very clear that we condemn this type of behavior. So, I just want to go down the line and hear if you agree with the Hortman children that we should condemn and we ask the President to take down this post.

Mr. Ballou?

Mr. BALLOU. Yes.

Mr. FROST. Representative?

Ms. RARICK. So, as the longest-serving member on this panel of Minnesota, I am so offended that anybody would accuse anybody of the assassination other than Lance Boelter, because this was—

Mr. FROST. So, do you agree with the—

Ms. RARICK [continuing]. A deep, deep scar in the State of Minnesota and—

Mr. FROST. Yes.

Ms. RARICK [continuing]. All of us personally. I served with Melissa—

Mr. FROST. I understand.

Ms. RARICK [continuing]. Hortman my entire 13 years.

Mr. FROST. Ma'am, but do you agree—

Ms. RARICK. And it is just unbelievably beyond the pale——

Mr. FROST. Do you agree that——

Ms. RARICK [continuing]. That we are talking about that right now.

Mr. FROST [continuing]. We should call on the President to take down the post? That is it.

Ms. RARICK. I said what I said. I think that it is beyond the pale that anybody talk about anyone or——

Mr. FROST. Okay. You cannot come to call on the President to take down the post. So, it is okay. We will move on.

Ms. RARICK [continuing]. Anybody assassinating Melissa Hortman——

Mr. FROST. Representative Hudson?

We will move on. Thank you, ma'am.

Ms. RARICK [continuing]. Except for Lance Boelter.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, ma'am. We will move on. You cannot call on the President to take down this post. We will move on to Representative Hudson.

It is just a yes or no.

Mr. HUDSON. I cannot deceive the Committee by giving it a binary. I have spoken to this many times. I have renounced the content of these ridiculous conspiracy theories, and I have called them "ridiculous" on multiple occasions, but——

Mr. FROST. That is great. Do you think it is appropriate for the President of the United States to repost it?

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. I am not going to engage in this silly condemnation game——

Mr. FROST. No. No, no, no, no. This is not——

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. In a context——

Mr. FROST. No, no, no, no, no.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. In a context——

Mr. FROST. This is not silly. This is the President——

Mr. HUDSON. What did you have to say——

Mr. FROST. It is my time. I will reclaim my time.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. About the assassination of Charlie Kirk?

Mr. FROST. I will reclaim my time.

Mr. HUDSON. What did you have to say——

Mr. FROST. I will reclaim my time.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. About Jay Jones——

Mr. FROST. I will reclaim my time.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. Who is the chief law enforcement officer——

Mr. FROST. I will reclaim my time.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. In the State of Virginia——

Mr. FROST. I will reclaim my time.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. Fantasizing about——

Mr. FROST. I will reclaim my time.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. Shooting Republicans and watching kids die——

Mr. FROST. I will reclaim my time.

[Crosstalk.]

Mr. FROST. The gentleman will——

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. In their mothers' arms?

Mr. FROST [continuing]. Stop talking on my time.

Mr. HUDSON. I am not playing this game—

Mr. FROST. The gentleman will stop talking—

Chairman COMER. Order.

Mr. HUDSON [continuing]. In that context, ever.

Mr. FROST [continuing]. On my time.

Chairman COMER. Order, order, order.

We will give you a few seconds—

Mr. FROST. A few seconds.

Chairman COMER [continuing]. To close, Mr. Frost.

Mr. FROST. I have to comment on this because this is not silly. It is not silly to expect good behavior from the people at the highest levels of our government, including—

Mr. HUDSON. You expect it from Jay Jones?

Mr. FROST. No, not your time.

Mr. HUDSON. Do you expect it from Jay Jones?

Mr. FROST. Not your time. Including the President of the United States.

Mr. GILL. Order.

Mr. FROST. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Timmons from South Carolina. Is that right? Yes, Mr. Timmons.

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Chairman, we are only one week in to 2026, and the Democrats are having a tough year. Here we are—this should not be a partisan issue.

We have uncovered \$9 billion in fraud. It does not matter if it is a red state or a blue state. That is \$9 billion. And you got to remember, the purpose of these social safety nets is to help people that need help. And when we have that amount of fraud, it undermines the purpose of the social safety nets. The people that want and need the benefits that they are deserving because they are American citizens, they are unable to get them because people are stealing money.

And it is even somewhat comical because, just a few days ago when the Trump Administration executed the most incredible—I mean, they technically executed—a warrant on Maduro, a narcoterrorist. They were able to not have a single casualty from our military, they limited collateral damage, and they executed what is truly just a perfect tactical military operation. And the Democrats have gone ballistic over it, gone ballistic.

This man has had warrants out for his arrest for five years. He has had a \$25 million bounty, which was increased to a \$50 million bounty. This is not a partisan issue. He has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans over the last few decades because he has sent drugs here for Americans to use and they have died from it. This is not a partisan issue.

Venezuela was a huge step in the right direction. Peace through strength works. We got to get together and we got to work on the issues that the American people want us to work on. And seeking out waste, fraud, and abuse, seeking out \$9 billion in theft of social safety net money is something that should not be partisan. And the fact that my colleagues across the aisle are going ballistic over

these ridiculous ancillary issues and trying to cast shade over what should not be a partisan issue is just ridiculous.

So, get it together. We need to do the job that the American people sent us here to do.

I want to actually point something out. So, Representative Robbins, my understanding is that around \$250 million in fraud was found in the four years of the Biden Administration. There were a number of indictments, dozens of indictments. Is that number about right?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. I think now they are up to about \$310 million for the Feeding Our Future.

Mr. TIMMONS. All right. Thank you. So, in the last year, in the last year, we are at \$9 billion. Is that the number you got?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. The U.S. Attorney has estimated that the total fraud in the Medicaid portion, which has nothing to do with Feeding Our Future—so, it is on top of that \$310 million—half of it is fraud.

Mr. TIMMONS. Thank you.

Mr. Ballou, you see where I am going with this? So, you are saying that we have had—we have decimated the budget of the IGs—which, by the way, were not doing their jobs because we have uncovered, I mean, \$8.5, \$8.6 billion more dollars in fraud with less resources.

So, how do you explain your testimony earlier that we have decimated the entities that are designed to investigate fraud when we have uncovered exponentially more fraud with less resources? How do you explain that?

Mr. BALLOU. You know, what we have been talking about today is not just regular fraud, the public corruption. So, the challenge that we have now is that the public corruption office—

Mr. TIMMONS. So, here is the thing. We are not having a hearing on public corruption. We are having a hearing on \$9 billion in fraud associated with Minnesota social safety nets. And so, you keep pushing back on that. You keep pushing back on this narrative that we should be seeking out waste, fraud, and abuse everywhere by saying that the Trump Administration has decimated the entities that are designed to seek out waste, fraud, and abuse, and yet those same entities have uncovered exponentially more fraud.

Mr. BALLOU. The problem is that they have not charged any public officials—

Mr. TIMMONS. There is no problem. Your logic is flawed, and you know your logic is flawed.

Mr. BALLOU [continuing]. And the public integrity function has been—

Mr. TIMMONS. Your logic is flawed, and you know your logic is flawed. I just wanted to point it out. It is okay.

So, I guess I want to get to this. We have a limited amount of money. We have \$37 trillion in debt. We run a \$2 trillion annual deficit. And we have spent much of this year seeking out waste, fraud, and abuse trying to get our fiscal house back in order because we are running out of time.

So, this cannot be a partisan issue. We cannot solve these problems without a bipartisan approach. So, I have a bill that I filed

called the TABS Act. And what it does, is it uses technology to confirm income eligibility.

So, \$1.5 trillion every year go to social safety nets that are means tested, meaning depending on where you live, if you make too much money, you do not get them. And so, if we use technology to real-time verify, you can actually give the social safety net, the person that is seeking it, way faster, in most cases immediately, and then you can remove them from that social safety net in real time.

In the Big Beautiful Bill, we changed it from once a year to twice a year, and that saved \$10 billion. If you do it in real time, you are going to save 20 percent of the money. So, if you extrapolate that over ten years, it is about \$2.5 trillion in savings for means-tested social safety nets.

These are the kind of things we need to be doing. This is not a partisan issue. We all agree that people fall on hard times and we need to help them up. We need to help them up.

But if we have \$9 billion of fraud in Minnesota, imagine what we have in California, imagine what we have in New York, imagine what we have across this country, and we have got to get a handle on it because we are running out of time. We cannot keep spending money we do not have.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. The gentleman yields back.

The Chair now recognizes Mr. Palmer from Alabama.

Mr. PALMER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Robbins, how long do you think the corrupt activity has been going on in Minnesota?

Ms. ROBBINS. We have whistleblower reports dating back from 2013 or 2014, so through the Dayton Administration and the Walz Administration.

Mr. PALMER. Over a decade. Over a decade.

Why is it that we are just now seeing—having this fully uncovered? And I am not sure it is fully uncovered yet. Why is it—I mean, you have got an Attorney General, you have got a Governor who claims to be pure as the driven snow. And you get a lot of snow in Minnesota. Why is it just now coming out?

Ms. ROBBINS. Well, because it has been a failure of the Administration, particularly our Office of Management and Budget, who has responsibility constitutionally for this, and they have not been doing their job. But because we were able to create this oversight Committee, it is the first time in the history of our legislature we have had an oversight Committee.

Mr. PALMER. Would you agree that with this fraud going on over a decade and, basically, the lackadaisical or disinterested approach from your government, that that is why it is necessary for the Oversight Committee here in Congress to take this up? Would you agree with that?

Ms. ROBBINS. I do. We are grateful for your help, because we do not have the resources and we do not have subpoena power and some of the tools that you have.

Mr. PALMER. Well, the reason that—one of the reasons that I do not think we need to bring Mississippi in here is because they have been very aggressive in their investigation and prosecution, along with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

And I just want to point that out, Mr. Chairman, that we would not be sitting here today asking the questions that we are having to ask if the Governor of Minnesota, Walz, and the Attorney General, and the other people that are responsible for oversight had acted expeditiously in investigating this themselves.

So, that is why we are here, isn't it?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes, sir.

Mr. PALMER. I appreciate all of you being here.

The charges and reports of fraudulent autism centers in Minnesota are shocking to me. Could you describe to us your Committee's findings in this area, Ms. Robbins, and how these fraudsters were operating?

Ms. ROBBINS. It is really shocking. So, there were autism centers that are Medicaid waiver program, and people were getting paid kickbacks to sign their kids up to participate in the autism center so they could build Medicaid, and these children did not necessarily have autism.

We have substantiated, court-documented by the U.S. attorney, how the parents were getting their kids falsely diagnosed with autism so that then they could get a kickback to participate in billing Medicaid for autism services.

Mr. PALMER. It is not just the fraud in terms of money. It is the abuse of children by their parents that has taken place here. And they were able to defraud the Early Intensive Development and Behavioral Intervention (EDIBI) program millions?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. I think we are just at the tip of the iceberg in understanding it. There has been a handful of charges, but we expect more.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Hudson, do you think General Ellison or Governor Walz was aware of the fraud prior to the exposure that has been brought now?

Mr. HUDSON. Oh, there is simply no doubt. I mean, again, referring to the exhibit that I submitted with my testimony, 2,500 pages of OLA reports citing all of the red flags and risk factors, and they did not take appropriate action.

Mr. PALMER. Why do you think they did that, Mr. Hudson and Ms. Rarick? She is about to hit her button, so go ahead.

Mr. HUDSON. In my opinion, the simplest answer, the most logical answer is that they did not want to know the answer to the question. Because the answer to the question was going to require them to take action against one of their favorite political constituents.

Mr. PALMER. It has also been alleged that they may have benefited.

Mr. HUDSON. Yes, that has been alleged. And I hope the evidence is entered into the record through investigation and prosecution.

Mr. PALMER. Well, it is going to be a thorough investigation.

Ms. Rarick, you were about to say something?

Ms. RARICK. Just really quickly. So, I think it should be noted—we have not said this yet—but Jim Nobles was our legislative auditor for 38 years, and he did a statement in the *Star Tribune* on December 29 of 2025. And he said, literally, all the state needed to do was implement standard financial controls and oversight.

Why the Walz Administration did not do that is still a mystery, but it is disturbing.

Mr. PALMER. Okay. Mr. Chairman, I think we just heard full justification for why we are having to have this hearing and why we will have to followup. Because, clearly, the State of Minnesota had almost a lack of interest, maybe even an interest in covering it up.

And so, with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back, and look forward to further investigating this massive problem.

Chairman COMER. Thank you, Mr. Palmer. I think the evidence is clear as well.

The Chair now recognizes Mrs. Luna from Florida.

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you, Chairman Comer.

Before I get to the questioning of some of our witnesses today—and thank you again for being here—I would like to make a motion to subpoena journalist Seth Harp for leaking classified information, including doxxing a Delta Force commander on Operation Absolute Resolve, which liberated the Venezuelan people and brought a terrorist dictator to the United States to face justice for his crimes against American citizens.

Chairman COMER. A motion has been made, another motion by Mrs. Luna. The Committee will hold this motion in abeyance till the end of today's hearing.

The Committee will now proceed.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Chair?

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes—

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you, Chairman Comer.

Mr. FROST. I make a motion to request this in writing.

Chairman COMER. Hold on. Hold on. There has been a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FROST. Parliamentary inquiry. We would like to request this in writing.

Chairman COMER. Okay.

Mrs. LUNA. I can submit that. If I can just, right after this, I will totally submit that to you guys. Because I have some other motions that we are voting on at the end.

This is a great motion in writing.

Mr. FROST. Okay. Thank you.

Mrs. LUNA. We want everyone on record for this one. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. All right. The Chair recognizes Mrs. Luna.

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you, Chairman Comer.

Honorable Robbins, based on your record before your committee, when did Governor Walz first become aware of widespread fraud in Minnesota's social service programs?

Ms. ROBBINS. I would assume that he has been aware of it since he ran for office for Governor in 2018.

Mrs. LUNA. By 2017, DHS investigators warned CCAP fraud could exceed 50 percent. Was that information elevated to the Governor's office?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. There was an OLA report.

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you, ma'am.

By 2020, state officials knew Feeding Our Future invoices were fraudulent. We know that payments continued to the AG's knowledge. Did they continue to the Governor's knowledge as well?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes.

Mrs. LUNA. Attorney General Ellison agreed on tape to fight Minnesota's own Department of Human and Health Services in exchange for Somali political and financial support.

In your personal opinion, do you believe it is a possibility that Governor Walz also made that personal deal or that he at least knew about the Attorney General's agreement?

Ms. ROBBINS. I do not know.

Mrs. LUNA. Okay. I do not want to rehash what you guys have spent hours answering. We know that there is a big issue with the fraud in Minnesota.

So, on a number of things, I would first like to point out thank you for being here today. But because of your testimony and because of some of the evidence that we have seen brought forward, as well as, I am sure, the fact that this Committee, I assume, at Chairman Comer's direction, will be soon subpoenaing AG Ellison, I would like to make criminal referrals regarding Governor Walz as well as AG Ellison.

As you know, U.S. Code 371 and U.S. Code 2, which deals with criminalized conspiracies to defraud the United States and establishes liability for individuals who knowingly aid or abet the commission a Federal offense, includes willful blindness or deliberate inaction where duties to act exist. So, I will be referring them later on today.

Now, aside from that, I do just want to point out that there is a statute that you can denaturalize citizens if their applications were fraudulent and also, too, if within ten years of their naturalization that they committed fraud in the United States.

And so, I take this very seriously, and it is very unfortunate that these people chose to do this, because being an American citizen is not a right; it is a privilege, especially if you were not born here.

And so, with that idea in mind, I would like to say that these criminals took advantage of the very country that gave them refuge. They do not deserve the privilege of remaining here, and, frankly, they do not deserve to even be imprisoned here, which is why, as the Chairwoman of the El Salvador Caucus, I work very strongly with President Bukele. And we also know that CECOT has proven to be a great facility to house people that are denaturalized and deemed not worthy of U.S. citizenship, and I will be making referrals for those individuals if they are found guilty.

Thank you for being here today.

Chairman, I yield my time.

Chairman COMER. Will you yield the last 2 minutes you had?

Mrs. LUNA. Yes, sir, to you.

Chairman COMER. All right. So, we have talked a lot about Governor Walz. I think you have all done a tremendous job codifying the fact that there is massive amounts of waste in Minnesota. This has been taking place for years, and yet nothing has been done.

The Democrats want to keep spending more money. They are like, why are we cutting off funding temporarily? We need to spend more money, throw more money at the problem. That is not working. The American people are not going to have it.

Thank you all for being here today to talk about this. I know it takes a lot of courage, and I am sure you are probably getting threats from certain people that have benefited from this and oth-

ers that are misinformed by the, you know, some of the—my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

We have talked about Walz. You have stated that Walz has been well aware of this, but we have not talked a lot about Attorney General Ellison. Very quickly, do you all have anything to add about his knowledge? Was he aware of this?

Go ahead, Ms. Rarick.

Ms. RARICK. Thank you. I actually have that document in front of me that I wanted to share.

So, this is from a press release that we actually confronted him with when we had a hearing and he was in front of us. And the press release is from September 26 of 2022, and this is press release from his office.

And it says, “Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and his office have been deeply involved for two years in holding Feeding Our Future accountable.” Now, the tape that we have been talking about as well where he said he would go to bat for the fraudsters against state agencies which, by the way, were his clients, happened one year prior to this press release.

So, if he had been working to oust the fraudsters for Feeding Our Future, he would have known who they were at the time of that meeting. He claimed in front of us that he did not know who they were. That was his reason to meet with them.

And, by the way, I would say that he did not meet with them in his official office, which is highly suspect. He met with them at a strip mall, I think, something like that.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Well, we have invited him to be at our next hearing on this. If he does not respond very soon, he will be receiving a subpoena to be here at the next hearing.

And we look forward to working with you and any other whistleblowers who want to come forward to ask Mr. Ellison specific questions.

Now, the Chair recognizes Mr. Gill for a unanimous consent.

Mr. GILL. I have got a unanimous consent request to enter into the record, “Former legislative auditor: Is the Walz Administration Finally Awake about Fraud?”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mr.—are you ready, Mr. Langworthy or?

Mr. LANGWORTHY. No. Please go to the next.

Chairman COMER. So, Mr. McGuire. The Chair recognizes Mr. McGuire from Virginia for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to our witnesses for being here today and for your tireless work on your committee to investigate and sound the alarm for fraud in your state.

After receiving a mandate from the American people and taking office, President Trump and this Administration have worked tirelessly to root out and put an end to waste, fraud, and abuse in our Federal Government.

The recent childcare fraud that has come to light in Minnesota is just the latest example of why the American people deserve to have oversight in how their taxpayer dollars are being spent.

Talking with constituents in my district, I had one guy say to me, he said, "John, why, why should we even pay taxes?" The signal that we are getting around our country is that you do everything right and you pay your taxes, and these folks are buying homes in foreign countries. These fraudsters are stealing from the American people, we, the people.

And one constituent said, "We are not paying taxes, we are paying criminals." We need to know where our taxpayer dollars are going.

The 20 million or so illegal aliens that came into our country have come here to break the donkey's back. You know, if you want to break a donkey's back, you keep loading it on and loading it on until its back breaks. And we are sick and tired of the waste, fraud, and abuse.

For some reason, it seems like our friends on the other side of the aisle partner with the fraudsters and not those people that are identifying the fraud.

You may remember during the summer of love when they were burning our cities for 80 days. Instead of supporting the police, they wanted to defund the police and use their dollars to bail them out of jail so they continue burning our cities. Makes no sense.

Recently, we got Maduro out of his country to stand trial for killing and terrorizing thousands of American citizens. And instead of telling the military what a great job they did, they had protests around the country for Maduro.

And by the way, I had a friend in the airport in Buenos Aires when it was announced. The entire airport cheered. And people in Venezuela say that they have been eating out of trash cans, and family members got into prostitution because their family was starving, they are trying to survive.

As a Navy SEAL veteran, I served in Venezuela during the nineties, and it was one of the most prosperous, strongest economic countries, safest places in South America, and they have ruined it. So, anyway, the people are sick and tired of the waste, fraud, and abuse.

In reference to the most recent childcare fraud scandal coming to light, a spokesperson for Governor Walz said, the Governor has worked for years to crack down on fraud and asked the state legislature for more authority to take aggression on this action. He has strengthened oversight.

Ms. Robbins and Mr. Hudson and Ms. Rarick, as members of the Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Committee, do you agree that Governor Walz has strengthened oversight in the State of Minnesota, yes or no?

Ms. ROBBINS. No. He belatedly took action this fall because of the enormous pressure that is coming to bear. But his agency has always had the authority that he trumpeted now.

Mr. HUDSON. No. He simplified the problem by pretending that you can solve it by appointing somebody to look at it. This needs systemic reform.

Ms. RARICK. He absolutely shredded oversight, simply.

Mr. MCGUIRE. I heard their testimony that it was career suicide to speak up.

But, Ms. Robbins, you have been very vocal about the mistreatment of whistleblowers by Governor Walz. Can you speak to some of the ways that Governor Walz and his Administration have retaliated against whistleblowers?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. I have met with many whistleblowers who have spoken about how they were told that they would be demoted or reassigned. I know of people who were reassigned. We also know that they were surveilled in their place of work when people thought they might be the, quote, leaker. Their email and their chat functions were surveilled electronically for words like “fraud” or “whistleblower” or “compliance” or “overbilling”.

So, they are under a great deal of stress in the Department of Human Services, and we are grateful for the whistleblowers who have spoken out to us.

Mr. MCGUIRE. So, based on all of your knowledge about this scandal or this fraud in Minnesota, I think it is the tip of the iceberg. We are like \$37 trillion in debt, and now, I do not know what it is about Somali, but apparently they are using that for Somali daycare centers in Washington State now. And it has come to light that there is some daycare center fraud in Ohio as well associated with Somalis.

So, I think we are just the tip of the iceberg, and there is waste, fraud, and abuse everywhere. Maybe a big chunk of our national debt comes from waste, fraud, and abuse.

So, I do not care if it is a red state or a blue state. We need to have oversight, and we need to protect the American people’s taxpayer dollars.

The childcare fraud brought to light by Nick Shirley is just the latest scandal. In 2022, Federal prosecutors charged 47 defendants, majority of whom were from the Minnesota Somali community, for the role they played in Feeding Our Future.

Are they still in power in Minnesota?

Ms. ROBBINS. The Democrats?

Mr. MCGUIRE. No. The Feeding Our Future. What is going on with them now?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, that program was a COVID-era child nutrition program, and that is over. But there are ongoing child nutrition programs that could be fraudulent.

So, I think they are still working their way through the Feeding Our Future case, but I think there will be need for ongoing oversight of child nutrition programs.

Mr. MCGUIRE. With that, I yield back. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Langworthy from Buffalo, New York. Okay.

The Chair recognizes—we will go to—is Mr. Stauber, are you ready, prepared, or Mrs. Fischbach?

Mr. STAUBER. Representative Fischbach prior to me. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Okay. The Chair recog—we are going to get to our waive-ons, and we may have a few more that will come in. We have a few more Republicans have not asked questions yet.

But, Mrs. Fischbach, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

And before I begin my remarks, I want to enter into the record an email shared by DHS whistleblowers. The email was written by a senior DHS official and sent to other DHS leaders.

In the email, the DHS official talks about using military intelligence resources to track down whistleblowers' exact location in this issue, and I believe this email was alluded to by Representative Rarick in her testimony.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Thank you so much.

And I have one more. And I ask for unanimous consent to enter into the record an article titled, "Minnesota Government Whistleblowers Claim They Were 'Electronically Surveilled', Had Promotions Denied," in the *New York Post* dated January 3, 2026.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And, first, I would like to say thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing us to waive on. This is an incredibly important issue in our state and across the country, and it is something that comes up all the time when we are out in the district.

And so, I thank—and I thank all of the legislators for being here and for all of your work that you do in order to expose this and dig into it and really figure out what is going on.

I think it was Mr. Burlison who asked if we were embarrassed, but I am not embarrassed to be from Minnesota. What I am is really sad, that this is happening and this is what Minnesota is known for now, this horrible fraud, because there are wonderful things that Minnesota does have to offer. And so, as a lifelong Minnesotan, it makes me sad that this is what we are having to talk about.

And while some may want to downplay this fraud, I want to be clear, this is an explicit and egregious coverup on the theft of taxpayer dollars and hundreds of millions from programs intended to help feed children, provide housing, provide childcare, even help individuals with autism. And we also have reports that some of this funding is going to terrorist organizations, like was mentioned earlier.

Democrats have been in charge in Minnesota for years. And I was in the Minnesota Legislature. I know. And they specifically wrote and passed legislation that reduced oversight when handing out Federal funds. Democrats seized on COVID, in particular, to yank back fraud protections just so that they could hand out money as fast as possible. That was the whole thing. That was the mantra during COVID is we have got to get it out fast, so we cannot have all these regulations and checks and balances on them.

Unfortunately, though, this problem is not new, and it was not just from COVID in Minnesota. Whistleblowers report that they have been making reports for years. The Democrat leadership at the state level in Minnesota has been actively suppressing whistleblowers, and I think some of the testimony that you have all given today is pointing that out. And that is not an opinion. It is fact. It is fact.

So, I am going to ask—maybe we are going to go over some of this a little once again, but I want to make sure that everybody understands that there is a clear answer.

Representative Rarick, the tweet—where did my sign go? I have a sign. Maybe we do not.

But there is an account that is working—that is, I believe, from the whistleblowers, and I just wanted to note—there we go. Thank you.

This behind me is the account. Is it run by one whistleblower?

Ms. RARICK. Madam Congressman, no. It actually is comprised of over 1,000 state employees across multiple state agencies.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. So, this is not just a couple of people. This is a lot, a lot of people bringing this to light.

And were the whistleblowers ever made to feel unsafe on their attempts to report fraud?

Ms. RARICK. Yes, absolutely. I can give you two quotes that they have in the seven-page document that was submitted for this Committee hearing.

Two things that they said is, think about your home, and what if you lose your job? So, these are things said to whistleblowers. Second thing was, we need information about where your kids go to school and where their bus stops are.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. And, Representative Rarick, that is just incredible stuff. And I know you mentioned it before, but I do think it is worth repeating. Because we had whistleblowers, this could have been happening, but there has been Democrat administration after Democrat administration, including Walz and including—and the newer—they have not addressed these things. And they have not said, hey, whistleblowers, we believe you, and we are going to do something about it. And so that is the concern.

And I just want to—I am running low on time, but I wanted to just ask Representative Robbins. And I am sorry, Mr. Hudson, but you have had some really good, good moments today, so I will go to Representative Robbins.

As Chair of the Committee, if these claims of retaliatory action are true, then it violates the law. So, if these claims are true, then a state agency is violating our own state whistleblowers laws. Is that correct?

Ms. ROBBINS. So, the whistleblower statute is for civil penalties. There is no criminal penalty for whistleblower retaliation in statute currently, but we are looking at that for the next session.

But that is why, when people say why haven't these people who have retaliated against the whistleblowers been prosecuted, it is because there is no criminal penalty in statute.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Has there been anything by the Attorney General's Office? And this is maybe a question that I will ask if he comes. Anything by the Attorney General's Office that would deal with that?

Ms. ROBBINS. No. We have passed a law this session to expand whistleblower protection because, prior to this session, they could only report up through their supervisor or to the state attorney general. And when they did, they were either ghosted or they were retaliated against.

So, we expanded it, so now they can report to legislators and they can report to law enforcement. And that is how we got this just deluge of whistleblower reports, because now they have somewhere safe to report.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. And you have been very indulgent. And I will just say, after 15 years of Democrat administration in Minnesota, this massive fraud is coming to an end because we are going to get to it.

And I appreciate the work that you have done on your committee, and we will do whatever we can to continue to bring it to light and prosecute those folks involved. So, thank you very much.

And, Mr. Chair, I thank you very much for your indulgence.

Chairman COMER. Thank you, Mrs.—

Mr. BELL. Chair, I ask unanimous consent.

Chairman COMER. Who said that? Mr. Bell.

Mr. BELL. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record this May 2025 report from the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs entitled, “Undermining the Watchdogs: The 19 Independent Inspectors General Fired by President Trump Uncovered Billions in Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

All right. Our next Minnesota waive-on is Mr. Finstad from Minnesota.

Mr. FINSTAD. Thank you, Chairman Comer. Thank you for holding this important hearing today. And thank you to our great Minnesota legislators for being here. God bless you and your work. It has been so needed, and you have amplified and created such a voice and opportunity for us to get to the bottom of this. So, thank you.

Governor Walz’ incompetence has put a spotlight on our state by enabling rampant fraud across federally funded state-administered programs.

And for those that are not from Minnesota, in Minnesota the Democrat Party goes by the DFL, Democrat-Farmer-Labor. Well, I will tell you what, they kicked the farmer out a long time ago, and that F now stands for fraud. And that is wholly owned by Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan, and it is on them, and it will be on them forever.

Minnesota taxpayers have had more than \$9 billion and counting taken from their pockets, yet the Walz Administration has failed to take meaningful action to stop this. Since Feeding Our Future’s scandal came to light, not a single individual responsible for ensuring accountability to these federally funded programs has been fired, not a single.

This would not stand a second in the private sector. I do not care if you are a bank CEO, I do not care if you are a greeter at Walmart. You would not have your job with the incompetence that Governor Walz has displayed in Minnesota.

Since I was first elected in 2022, I have joined my Republican colleagues and the congressional delegation sending numerous letters to Governor Walz and his Administration to expose the lawlessness occurring in our state, with no response.

The Minnesota State legislators here testifying have been on the front lines working to combat this failure and Governor Walz’ failure to responsibly steward over the \$9 billion in taxpayer money. I thank you for appearing here today.

With that being said, you know, we are talking about programs—housing stabilization, daycare, autism centers, Feeding Our Future.

I mean, these are all compassionate, good Minnesota values. We want to take care of our neighbors in need. If our neighbors—if they are struggling to find the amount of money to put food on their table, we will take the shirt off our back to help our neighbors in need.

These fraudsters preyed on the goodwill of Minnesotans. Minnesota is Minnesota nice, and these fraudsters knew it, and they took advantage of us.

So, I am going to start with you, Representative Rarick. Thank you again for your leadership. During your tenure in Minnesota State Government, how long have you been working on this issue, and what are some of the craziest, most egregious things that you have seen really that have been identified by the incompetency of our CEO/Governor of our state?

Ms. RARICK. Right. So, I was elected in 2013, started serving then, and I literally have heard about fraud since 2013. And I will tell you, every time that it was raised in a committee by myself or my colleagues, we were essentially called racist and Islamophobic or that the fraud really was not happening.

I remember with the daycare fraud when there was credible allegations that it was \$100 million back in 2013, 2014, 2015, somewhere in there, they prosecuted closer to \$5 to \$10 million. And so instead of the \$100 million, that was what was prosecuted. And so, Democrats would say, well, it is really not. It is really not 100 million. It is really just a couple.

And so, I know that we had a gentleman behind us come and testify in front of us, and he had a tracker, and they spent the entire time besmirching his good character as opposed to actually talking about the fraud. And that is what we have experienced nonstop every day.

Mr. FINSTAD. Yes. So, thank you for that testimony, but also thank you for being strong. Because the politics of intimidation, name-calling, race-baiting, they want us to shut up. They want this fraud to continue. And so, thank you for being strong.

You know, I represent 750,000 of our neighbors in southern Minnesota. It is God's country down there. And, you know, I hear from my neighbors, the Democrat control and what it has done to decimate our daycare industry, the affordability, the access. We just struggle with daycare in southern Minnesota. And I cannot help but think that, wow, \$9 billion sure would go a long ways to help our neighbors in southern Minnesota.

You know, the Walz Administration has done crazy things. They weaponized the Administration. Heck, we have daycares in southern Minnesota getting fined for leaving ChapStick on their office desk. They can find the time to do that, but they cannot find the \$9 billion. Ridiculous.

Representative Robbins, the Democrats at the state and Federal level—so we are talking everyone from Angie Craig, Ilhan Omar, Tina Smith, Amy Klobuchar, Tim Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flanagan—have they helped at all in your committee work? Have they been a part of it? Have they said, hey, we want to help try to get rid of this fraud?

Ms. ROBBINS. No. I do not know of any Democrats who have called out the Walz Administration for their absolute failure to protect taxpayer dollars and our vulnerable citizens.

Mr. FINSTAD. So, this is just unbelievable to me that we cannot, in the face of this horrific fraud and crime that is going on, we cannot for a brief moment rip the R and the D off our sweatshirt and put the USA on and say enough is enough.

And so, what you are doing and by being here today, helping us understand the details and the level of fraud in Minnesota is so important, we cannot thank you enough.

And, Chairman Comer, we stand ready to help you and this Committee however we can to put an end to this.

Chairman COMER. We are serious about it, and we want to work with you.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Langworthy from Buffalo.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for putting this hearing together so promptly after all of this fraud was unveiled.

I am not going to get into belaboring all the facts that have been revealed here already today. But, Representative Robbins, how long do you believe that this fraud was allowed to operate in Minnesota before anyone in state government actually decided to act?

Ms. ROBBINS. Well, we have had all this going on since 2014 at least, and the Walz Administration has been in office seven years, and they very belatedly took a few actions this fall.

So, they only came to the table to help pause programs and have required audits because of the public pressure.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. So, we are looking at fraud going back 11 years at this point in untold sums of money.

And with the years that this has gone on, who in your mind knew about this fraud and who do you think looked the other way?

Ms. ROBBINS. I think everybody in Minnesota knew about it. There have been so many great local investigative journalistic stories on this, and I think the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, and all of the agency heads have looked the other way.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. I really want to salute you and your colleagues that were on the front end of this trying to get people to pay attention to this.

And when you raised attention to this fraud, long before Nick Shirley's outstanding reporting, Governor Walz and Attorney General Ellison actually refused to take your claim seriously. Isn't that correct?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. We gave them a list in February of last year of 72 childcare centers we thought were problematic that should be investigated. And to my knowledge, they did not do anything with the list we provided.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Now, as an elected official, you obviously are out in the community. Is this blatant fraud something that people on the street are talking about?

Ms. ROBBINS. All the time. They are furious.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. And they know it. It is in plain sight. Everyone knows what is going on, but no one will act?

Ms. ROBBINS. Well, we are doing our best to act at the committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. You are. You are. But the people that are actually in power—you know, I come from New York, so I understand what blue state living is all about.

But I—it is infuriating, because we see the same thing in our home state. And when you have people in power that refuse to do the right thing, even though the problem is an obvious one, it is really disheartening to the constituents and the taxpayers, the hardworking men and women paying the bills.

And, Representative Robbins, do you think that there was a political calculation that was made by the people that turn a blind eye, that it was more beneficial for them to allow and kind of green light the fraud, or were they afraid of political consequences if they actually did something about that from a constituency of Somalis?

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes. I think they chose to protect the fraudsters and the criminals over the whistleblowers and the taxpayers because, as the Somali investigator said, that feckless fear—they had feckless fear from the establishment politicians and state agencies when they were confronted with charges of racism and Islamophobic.

So, they were afraid of being called racist or Islamophobic, the Democrat politicians, and standing up to their base, so they just turned a blind eye.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. And with this, you know, Somali population, this is part of the Democrat Party's base at this point in Minnesota. Isn't that correct?

Ms. ROBBINS. Largely.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Largely. So, they were basically renting a constituency through the fraud at the expense of the taxpayer. That is wild.

Ms. ROBBINS. Yes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. You do not have to answer that. I think that we all know the answer to that.

And, Representative Hudson, there is a childcare affordability crisis right now, and young families in my district and across the country are making really tough choices to afford quality care. What impact has this fraud had on waitlists and staffing and simply making resources available for legitimate childcare centers in your constituency?

Mr. HUDSON. Well, as Mr. Finstad pointed out, in Minnesota, there has been a longstanding attack upon family based childcare where folks would run businesses out of their homes. And when you are out of the city, that is usually the type of childcare you would have access to.

And so in a climate where there have already been reductions in the availability of people to be able to receive childcare, again, going back to the firefighter putting out the fire analogy, yes, it causes damage with the water, but it is necessary in this time even though it hurts because of the blaze that Walz allowed to explode.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. It is amazing. This \$9 billion in fraud went uninvestigated, ignored, swept aside for years, not a single rogue bureaucrat, but by every Democrat official in the State of Min-

nesota who presented with clear, damning evidence chose to look the other way blindly.

I cannot wait to see Tim Walz and Keith Ellison in those seats where you are sitting right now. But to everyone here, we cannot ignore who truly benefited from this failure beyond the perpetrators of the fraud. And as Governor Tim Walz and the entire Democratic leadership throughout a constituency's votes that they bought by looking the other way and letting this happen, they effectively green-lit this theft of billions of dollars in taxpayer money through years of willful ignorance. And every single American taxpayer deserves full accountability, because this is not limited to just Minnesota. We have a lot of other states to start to look at. I mean, all the big blue handout states—I live in one of them—we have to open the Pandora's Box here and find out how much money has been siphoned off from America's taxpayers.

I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Well said.

The Chair recognizes Congressman Jack from Georgia.

Mr. JACK. I also want to echo my support for Congressman Langworthy's remarks. Certainly associate myself with them. It is all political, and it is very unfortunate.

I want to thank the witnesses for testifying today, and I would also like to thank our Chairman for convening this hearing so expeditiously. Less than two weeks have passed since the Nation was caught in this just horrible, horrible crisis watching this unfold, and here we are with action today.

We have talked a lot about the \$9 billion in fraud. I like quantifying it because, you know, more often than not, we throw around the biggest numbers here in Washington and sometimes it is hard to—sometimes it is hard to quantify it.

It takes about a second to count a dollar bill, and that is nine billion seconds, means that if we started counting in 1741, 285 years ago, we would just now be finishing \$9 billion worth of a count. So, take that data point to heart.

But I want to concentrate my line of questioning today on the whistleblowers. And I know a lot has been discussed, but as we near the end of this hearing, I want to start with Representative Rarick. And it is our understanding, as has been discussed today, the Department of Human Services whistleblowers claim that they have faced retaliation from senior Minnesota Department of Human Services officials, including appointees on behalf of Governor Walz. And I just want you to explain to us again how these administrators have retaliated against whistleblowers.

Ms. RARICK. Right. So, the threats were pretty intense. And as I have said, their jobs were threatened, they had strange questions demanding answers about where their children went to school, where their bus stops were. They were told that if you do not do what we tell you to do or not do what we tell you to do, you will lose your job, you will lose that job with cause, which means, in Minnesota, that you do not get unemployment insurance, you also could lose your retirement plan.

Also, you would be blacklisted off of all state agencies. And I would note that that also includes Hennepin and Ramsey Counties,

our biggest counties, because they are Democrat run, and maybe even the University of Minnesota. I am going to throw that in too.

Probably some of our biggest cities, like Rochester, Duluth, that are very Democrat leaning. So, it is a very vast threat. They have also threatened them with sort of a vague military intelligence.

So, there was one—I have the email right here that was just submitted, I believe, by Congresswoman Fischbach, and it says things like, I would like to use my former colleagues in the Army to locate where you are using your IP address, and I do not have that—he says, I do not have that technology anymore, but I can get it in a heartbeat.

So, there were vague threats, and I believe there was more threats beyond that, but it was very expansive threats.

Mr. JACK. Well, I am glad you mentioned that. I actually wanted to talk about that. As I understand it, it was the, and I think, to your point, she entered it into the record. But the interim Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Operations—for the folks watching at home—of the Department of Human Services in Minnesota allegedly was trying to use a contact in the military during the Biden Administration to track whistleblowers' whereabouts.

I presume this is illegal under Minnesota law, but would love for you to indulge us as to whether or not it is.

Ms. RARICK. You know, I do not know for sure if it is illegal in Minnesota. If it is not, it certainly should be. I think most of what happened to the whistleblowers is illegal. But the control over the state, the control over the largest counties, the control over some of our largest cities is controlled by Democrats, and so this was allowed to continue.

Mr. JACK. And to the best of your knowledge, whether it be Governor Dayton or Governor Pawlenty before, were whistleblowers treated in such a manner under those administrations or is this unique to the Walz Administration?

Ms. RARICK. I do not have any reports particularly through the Pawlenty Administration. I know that fraud was beginning to be uncovered at the very tail end of his Administration but mostly under Democrat rule. But I do not know of this kind of retaliation in any other administration besides the Walz Administration.

Mr. JACK. Thank you for sharing that with us.

And I just want to close out, some Minnesota officials claim they had no knowledge of this fraud, just found out about it, which I think we all know is demonstrably false. But I am just curious, could you elaborate for this Committee on the many ways by which Governor Walz could have been made aware of this? I mean, he certainly was made aware of this, turned a blind eye. I just want to make sure that we understand, as a Committee, the many methods by which he was informed.

Ms. RARICK. So, there were a multitude of legislative auditor reports, so much so that I had read into the record what Jim Nobles, the last legislative auditor before Judy Randall—he had been the legislative auditor for 38 years, and he was so disgusted by the actions of Governor Walz that he wrote a couple comments in the *Star Tribune* saying that they literally just needed to do basic financial controls, and it is behooving to him—or confounding to him, I should say, as to why they did not.

So, he is a very much a nonpartisan, nonpolitical person, and he was shocked at what he found.

Mr. JACK. I want to thank all of our witnesses for testimony today.

And, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

And I believe our last questioner is our last waive-on from Minnesota, Representative Stauber.

Mr. STAUBER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

And after all the—after all the conversations today, you wonder why the Department of Justice cannot get the voter rolls out of Minnesota and the Secretary of Ag cannot get the SNAP benefits from Minnesota to make sure there is no fraud.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for holding this hearing. And I also want to thank our witnesses, whose years of hard work in Minnesota are exposing these revelations, are finally garnering the national attention that they deserve.

And finally, I want to thank the numerous whistleblowers who are exposing Tim Walz' failures as Governor. As we have heard today, these brave men and women are risking their careers to reveal the truth, while Tim Walz is actively attempting to threaten and suppress them. I am here to say it will not work, and we stand with the whistleblowers.

I am going to shift gears and ask you about Minnesota's new paid family leave program that the Governor has been touting during this fraud scandal.

Representative Rarick, under the paid family leave program in Minnesota, who can I take leave or care for, and is it limited to family or dependents?

Ms. RARICK. Thank you, Congressman Stauber. No, it is not limited to just family. One would think that it was, but there is something that the Democrats built into the law that said, if I set up an expectation of care, with no documentation, by the way, no attestation, absolutely no documentation, then that is good enough in Minnesota.

Mr. STAUBER. So, I could take care of somebody that is just a friend of mine?

Ms. RARICK. Congressman, absolutely.

Mr. STAUBER. So, it does not matter if they are related, if I have had a past relationship or closer, I can just go and ask my—or tell my employer I am leaving for 12 weeks or eight weeks and get 90 percent of my pay and take care of that person, right?

Ms. RARICK. You could do that, yes. And so, it is a sliding scale. It is not all of the people would get 90 percent, but the vast majority, I believe, depending on your salary, would get 90 percent. And, yes, you could go take care of anybody because there is no documentation.

Mr. STAUBER. What kind of proof of care would I have to provide to the state to demonstrate that I am actually taking care of you during my paid family leave?

Ms. RARICK. No, there is absolutely no documentation. So, you have to provide and prove absolutely nothing.

Mr. STAUBER. So, if I do not show up and take care of who I say I am taking care of, nothing is going to happen to me?

Ms. RARICK. That is correct. You could go to Puerto Rico, you could go to Istanbul. It does not matter where you go or what you do, there is no requirement to document.

Mr. STAUBER. So, I can say that I am just caring for anyone, and the State of Minnesota would require my boss to give me a 12-week vacation without any proof?

Ms. RARICK. That is exactly how the Democrats wrote that law, that is correct.

Mr. STAUBER. Is a licensed American doctor required to certify that this person needs my immediate and uninterrupted care?

Ms. RARICK. So, the people—the medical professionals, it is a very, very broad category. And, no, they do not have to be an American, midwife, doctor, chiropractor, orthopedic surgeon, none of those things. It can be in any country.

Mr. STAUBER. Does the state require the person I am claiming to care for to be present in Minnesota or even in the United States of America?

Ms. RARICK. No, Congressman. That person could be anywhere.

Mr. STAUBER. Somalia?

Ms. RARICK. Absolutely.

Mr. STAUBER. So, you are telling me I can get a foreign doctor without an American license to just check a box, and I get a state-mandated paid vacation to Somalia or any other country. Is that correct?

Ms. RARICK. That is how the law was written by Democrats in Minnesota, yes.

Mr. STAUBER. This is incredibly concerning.

With what little time I have left, I want to open this up to the entire panel. Is there anything else you would like to address regarding the paid family leave program? And I will start with Representative Robbins.

Ms. ROBBINS. Thank you. We always talk about how important it is to stop fraud on the front end. So, our committee held a hearing on this paid family leave law that took effect January 1 back in November. And we grilled the Department of Employment and Economic Development trying to get them to shore up some of these definitions, trying to put some guardrails on this program. And they just assured us over and over, they have got it covered, there will not be any fraud, do not worry about it. But I have already had whistleblower reports since the program started January 1 of fraud.

So, we are going to have to get a handle on this, and I think it is the next fraud frontier in Minnesota.

Mr. STAUBER. Representative Hudson, anything you would like to add on the paid family leave program in Minnesota?

Mr. HUDSON. Just to put points that Representative Rarick put as concisely as possible. It is humorous but true that you could quite literally have a witch doctor approve your vacation to Somalia. That is how loose the rules are written.

Mr. STAUBER. Listen, I am proud to be from Minnesota. I was born, raised, and living in Minnesota, raising my family there. This is going to stop, and you folks are at the front of it. Minnesotans have had enough. We are hardworking people. We will not allow

our tax dollars to go to fraud. And I commend that the three of you and other folks back in Minnesota that want to stop this.

And, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I seek recognition to make motion for a subpoena.

Chairman COMER. State your motion.

Ms. PRESSLEY. I would like to make a motion to subpoena the Department of Homeland Security for all documents and footage related to the murder of a woman by ICE that took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, today.

Chairman COMER. A motion has been made. The Committee will hold this motion in abeyance till the end of today's hearing.

And we will prepare to close now. That concludes all of our questions.

In closing, I want to again thank our witnesses for being here today. Welcome to the House Oversight Committee. This was a pretty cordial committee hearing for us, so we—and very important.

Before we adjourn, I want to yield to Ranking Member Garcia for his closing remarks, and then I will give my closing remarks.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just before we close, I also want to mention the news of this horrific killing in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We are talking about Minnesota right now. This was a killing by an ICE agent. There are videos that are now online. There is testimony that is being brought to light. It is horrific. I encourage folks to watch those videos and see what has happened for themselves. And I am hopeful that this Committee investigates this incident and that we have full accountability. So, I want to thank Representative Pressley for her motion.

Now, we have heard a lot today and particularly a lot of bigoted smears against an entire community. Now, some Republican Members of this Committee said or implied that somehow all Somalis are now suspected fraudsters or terrorists.

Now, Somali Americans are overwhelmingly U.S. citizens with the same rights as any Member of this Committee. And the rest and a vast majority of them are just hardworking folks who are trying to take care of their families and playing by the rules.

And we should be clear that if we want to investigate fraud, we should start by investigating 1600 Pennsylvania. We all know that fraud is a betrayal of the public's trust, and Democrats agree that we must be rigorous in conducting oversight wherever it exists.

But conducting rigorous oversight does not somehow exclude the President or the administration or the DOJ and what is happening there or the rampant crimes that are happening right now all across other agencies. We know that holding fraudsters accountable does not mean granting them full and unconditional Presidential pardons because they are wealthy supporters of the President.

President Trump last year gave out 25 get out of jail free cards from fraudsters alone, 25. He pardoned them from paying back more than \$1 billion they owed to their victims. This is wrong and it is un-American. We have to make sure the victims of fraud are not forced to suffer any more.

And we also know that cutting off childcare and family support for thousands of innocent families is not the way to protect victims. In fact, it punishes victims. These attacks are harming parents, children, and childcare providers as we speak.

Many childcare providers, not just in Minnesota but across the country, are receiving death threats. Childcare centers have been vandalized, and the children's information has been stolen in some cases. Childcare providers in states across the country have reported that they will have to close if they lose Federal funding.

Parents are saying they have to quit their jobs because they will no longer be able to have childcare for their families and while they are at work. These cuts will make it harder for families to put food on the table as grocery costs continue to increase. We should be protecting those families and children who are being hurt by all of this.

Let us go after the big fraud in our government, and that includes the fraud and corruption at the White House.

And with that, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Ranking Member yields back.

And I will conclude by saying today we have heard about the shocking, rampant, and long ongoing fraud in Minnesota's social service programs. This fraud has shocked and outraged the American people, and rightfully so. The scale of this fraud is not just something we have seen before, and I am pretty confident this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The Trump Administration has taken a whole-of-government approach to rooting out fraud. The Trump Administration has already uncovered at least \$9 billion in fraud. These criminals have stolen taxpayer dollars from all Americans to fund lavish cars, homes, and vacations here in the United States and abroad. Some of the stolen money is even allegedly going overseas to support terrorists.

Our witnesses—the Chairwoman and two members of the Minnesota House of Representatives Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy Committee—have been sounding the alarm on this fraud for years. Democrats have attempted to distract the American people from this widespread fraud and accuse investigators of racism. This should not be a partisan issue, but they clearly do not take this issue seriously. Either they do not take fraud seriously or they just do not care. It is one or the other.

The most vulnerable are suffering as a result. These programs are meant to feed needy kids, provide services to autistic children, house low-income and disabled Americans, and provide healthcare to vulnerable Medicaid recipients. The Walz Administration has kept this money flowing for years, oftentimes behind closed doors.

When whistleblowers came forward about this fraud, the Walz Administration retaliated against employees who warned and alerted the Administration to fraud occurring within these social programs.

There are supposed to be checks and balances in our system to prevent this, both on the Federal and state levels. Every agency that lost hundreds of millions and even billions of dollars has well-paid staff that are supposed to prevent this. That is their job. They are Inspectors General. That is their job. They have huge staff. We

have jurisdiction over the IGs. Many have failed, and they need to be held accountable.

Now, I want to close by saying we have had four Minnesota Republicans to waive on this Committee. If there was a Committee hearing about fraud in Kentucky and I was not on the Committee, I would want to waive on the Committee. But not a single Democrat requested to waive on the Committee from the State of Minnesota.

And there is one member of the Minnesota delegation, Representative Omar, who coincidentally is of Somali descent, did not request to be in this hearing. I will publicly invite her to come to the next hearing. And she does not have to, but she can request to be waived on, and I will gladly grant that request.

I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record an application unsealed by the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota on December 18, 2025, for law enforcement to execute a search warrant on Ultimate Home Health Services, LLC, for defrauding Minnesota's Independent Community Supports Medicaid Program. This fraudulent provider's negligence resulted in the death of a man who suffered from severe mental health. I referenced this tragedy in my opening statement.

We are not going to—this is not it. This is just the beginning. We want to again thank you for being here. We are going to work with you to see that these Federal funds go to people in Minnesota who they are supposed to go to. I support President Trump putting a halt on all Federal funding to these government social programs in Minnesota until we get a handle on where this is going.

And thank you all for doing that. We will work with you and do everything we can to hold people accountable and to stop the fraud and get the backs of the American taxpayers.

Pursuant to the previous order, the Chair declares the Committee in recess, subject to the call of the Chair. We plan to reconvene at 4 p.m.

The Committee now stands in recess, and the witnesses may be excused. Thank you all.

[Recess.]

Chairman COMER. The Committee will reconvene. I know we have votes very quickly on the House Floor. If we do not get this done, we are going to have to come back and vote after the Floor votes, however long that lasts.

So, the first motion is the Luna motion to subpoena Neville Singham. It is now brought under consideration.

Does any Member wish to speak on the motion?

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to the motion.

Chairman COMER. State your amendment.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you. Pursuant to clause 2(k)(6) of House Rule XI, the Committee shall subpoena Les Wexner to sit for a deposition before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

And, Mr. Chairman, I would like to be recognized to explain the amendment briefly.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Explain your amendment.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This is an amendment, of course, to Representative Luna's motion. Les Wexner is a long-time benefactor of Jeffrey Epstein, and at one point was Epstein's only documented client. Maria Farmer was abused in a house attached to Wexner's Ohio property and guarded by Wexner's security staff.

Virginia Giuffre named Wexner in a deposition as one of the men she was trafficked to. Wexner also paid for Epstein's home in New York City. There is probably no one more important as relates to the financing and the work of this investigation, which both sides of the aisle are interested in, have voted to move forward, than ensuring that we bring Mr. Wexner in to come and be deposed by this Committee.

Public reporting has documented their longstanding ties. He should answer our questions in a nonpartisan way to get the truth to the Epstein investigation, and that is the motion.

Chairman COMER. Would you—let us see. So, I guess we are going to debate the amendment to the motion.

Would you yield the question?

Mr. GARCIA. Sure.

Chairman COMER. We are serious about the Epstein investigation, and I think you have seen a lot of our Members stand up and make it very clear they want to get to the bottom of Epstein. Nobody wants to do it more than I do.

We also want to hear from Bill Clinton, and you all—we voted in a bipartisan manner to subpoena Bill Clinton, but we have not gotten confirmation for President Clinton to come in for a transcribed interview or now a deposition.

So, do you all—are you all going to help us try to get Clinton in? I figure you guys have his number—I do not.

Mr. GARCIA. I have been very clear, and I think the Committee agrees, that we are willing to talk to anyone, including the former President, if they have information regarding the Epstein investigation.

And so, the motion in front of us right now is on Les Wexner, who is central to the Epstein investigation and probably knows more than anyone else about the financing and has been named by survivors.

That is in addition to Luna's motion, which if part of the amendment, we can certainly take that vote.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Any other discussion on the Garcia amendment? Ms. Stansbury.

Ms. STANSBURY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to echo my support for this subpoena and say two things: One, this is not a quid pro quo. This is an investigation. And so, we will subpoena and support subpoenas for any coconspirator and anyone who has evidence that is important in this case.

Second, I want to note that this individual is actually named in the Department of Justice emails that were released in the partial release by the Administration as one of the ten coconspirators the Department of Justice was investigating and was actually named.

And finally, I just want to say this, Mr. Chairman: The Department of Justice has released, as we understand it, only one percent of the files in their possession. And I think we really want to know

why this Committee is not demanding that DOJ come in front of us immediately to account for this.

And, with that, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Any other—Mrs. Luna, your request to speak on the Garcia amendment to your motion.

Mrs. LUNA. Yes. I think that this is a sound motion for subpoena because Les Wexner has been named by victims and also, too, is in a number of documentaries.

But I would like to at least offer my opinion and refute what Ms. Stansbury said regarding some of the files that have been released regarding some of the files that have been released. There have been thousands of files released, so much so that, yes, there have been redactions, but most of the redactions, to my knowledge, have been pertaining to either Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) materials and/or victim information.

I know that in one instance there was potentially a breach of that, of which the DOJ immediately corrected. But we have also been working, at least my office has, with the Department of Justice to make sure that victims have received their direct information.

So, please understand, at least from my perspective, that it is not our opinion that there have been a holdback. I do know that the documents are on a rolling basis as well, similar to the other declassified files. However, aside from that, I do support Garcia's amendment and I would encourage my colleagues to do so.

Chairman COMER. All right. Any other discussion on the Garcia amendment? Seeing none, all those in favor of the amendment, of the Garcia amendment to the Luna motion signify by saying aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman COMER. All those opposed, say no.

[No response.]

Chairman COMER. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to.

Mr. GARCIA. We want a recorded vote. Actually, no, we do not.

Chairman COMER. Now, the debate is on the—does any Member wish to speak on the Luna motion, as amended?

Representative Luna.

Mrs. LUNA. Just if someone is tracking, Neville Singham was referred to the Department of Justice, I believe, for Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) violations by then-Senator Rubio when he served on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Neville Singham, regardless of what you might feel about your colleagues, has been a mechanism and funding arm of the Chinese Communist Party. He is not a registered agent by FARA, and has been connected to a number of riots, to include the anti-ICE riots being funded in Los Angeles as well as a group that was tied to and being investigated for the assassination of Charlie Kirk, known as—I think it was a group of Socialism and Liberation, and then also to—has been avoiding our requests for him to come bring information to Congress.

He is definitely someone that is anti-American in ideology. And regardless of where you might stand, even on topics like Israel versus Palestine, is funding certain groups that actually sow dis-

cord in this country with no efforts to actually resolve the issues, only to get us to fight one another.

So, I would encourage you all, at least if you do not politically agree with one another, to at least respect the fact that he is a known foreign agent to China, has not been registered as such, has been made to fund riots and has been known to be the result of many of our own Americans being targeted with violence. And as a result of that, I do think that he should face subpoena.

In the event that he is not subpoenaed or that he does not answer the subpoena, I will be making a motion for inherent contempt, and I encourage my colleagues to support this motion.

Chairman COMER. Luna yields back.

Min, Representative Min.

Mr. MIN. Thank you. Being new to this Committee, I guess I am just curious why this is happening in this hearing, and why we did not have a chance to review the subpoena with some notice. You know, as much as I want to appreciate what you say and just take it at face value, we are all learning this right now, and it does not really give us a lot of time to do our research to determine the validity of your subpoena request. And so, I just really—from a procedural perspective, I am just curious if this is normal.

Mrs. LUNA. If I can respond and answer.

Chairman COMER. Do you yield to Luna or Garcia?

Mr. MIN. I yield to Garcia first.

Mr. GARCIA. No, I just want to add that I understand his concerns. I am going to recommend that we vote yes on the Luna motion. I think the Representative made clear her support for the deposition that we are going to have with Mr. Wexner, and so, that is going to be my recommendation for our Committee.

Mrs. LUNA. And if I could just answer the question. So, as part of the rules, if subpoenas are not sent in the traditional fashion through the Chairman, individual Members can actually make motions where the Committee as a whole can vote on it.

And so, because Neville Singham has been avoiding receipt of our request for him to come in and just give basic information, it is because he has been known to be funding these groups that are literally causing us to eat each other alive, even sometimes within the House of Representatives.

I do think that he needs to answer for that. And so, to answer your question, that is why I made the motion today.

Chairman COMER. Any other Members wish to speak?

Seeing none, all those in favor of the Luna motion, as amended by the Garcia amendment, signify by saying aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman COMER. All those opposed, say no.

[No response.]

Chairman COMER. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the motion, as amended, is agreed to.

Next up is the Luna motion number two to subpoena Jonathan Greenblatt.

Does any Member wish to speak on the motion? Mrs. Luna.

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment.

Chairman COMER. We will do your amendment first. Okay.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you. I have an amendment to Representative Luna. Pursuant to clause 2(k)(6) of House Rule XI, the Committee shall subpoena Governor Tate Reeves of Mississippi to testify in a hearing before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

And I have some comments if you would like to recognize those now.

Chairman COMER. All right. State your comments.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to recognize a motion. We, of course, had a big hearing today. And we certainly should not just be concerned with fraud that could be happening in states with Democratic Governors but also those with Republican Governors. Fraud should be looked at anywhere it happens.

The *Wall Street Journal* on Monday reported a massive Mississippi welfare scandal. Mississippi has seen years of scandals under multiple Governors, but we have been silent as a Committee. We did not have any witnesses from Mississippi here today and Oversight Republicans are not calling in Governor Tate.

So, this is an opportunity for the American people to hear about fraud wherever it occurs, and this motion will do just that. And I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Now, the Chair recognize Mrs. Luna to speak on the Garcia amendment to your motion number two.

Mrs. LUNA. Fraud is fraud. I support this. I encourage my colleagues to do it. It does not matter if they are Republican or not. If he is guilty of it, bring him in.

Chairman COMER. Any other debate?

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if the gentlemen would allow me to move to amend his amendment to include the Governor of Arizona, who admitted that they had \$2.5 billion worth of fraud in Medicaid fraud just a year ago. The Attorney General did.

Chairman COMER. Okay. This is where my Future Farmers of America (FFA) parliamentary procedure came in place. Ellie, you can back me up. Amendment—there is a motion to amend the amendment. Do we go into that a motion? All right.

So, Mr. Biggs has made an amendment to the Garcia amendment to the Luna motion. Does anyone wish to speak on the Biggs amendment to the amendment? And his is to subpoena the Arizona Governor. Right. Okay.

Mr. GARCIA. Look, I am glad that the Representative wants to subpoena his opponent in the Governor's race. Just to be clear.

Mr. BIGGS. If it makes you happy, I will say not her. Let us bring in the AG.

Mr. GARCIA. No, I mean just to be clear.

Mr. BIGGS. Bring in the AG.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, sir, since I have the floor, I just want to say that my amendment is clear. We heard from one state today. I think it is important that we hear from Governor Tate of Mississippi. That is the amendment that I am going to let stand as presented. If other motions are made, we can vote on those as appropriate.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Biggs to specify his amendment to the amendment on who we are—

Mr. BIGGS. Yes, thanks, Mr. Chairman.

I am happy to reword my amendment to instead of the Governor of Arizona if you want the Attorney General, because the Attorney General is the one who stood up a year and a half ago and said that she discovered \$2.5 billion worth of waste in Arizona's Medicaid program, and that we need to find out more about that. So, I am content with doing that.

And I just find it hilariously hypocritical to say, well, we want the dude from Mississippi because he is a Republican. But when you want to bring in someone from my home state, not even running against me, okay, that is why I moved it. And to say, well, we cannot do that. We cannot do that because that would be—I do not know.

It is just—because this is the cycle you guys chose to get on. She has admitted—she has admitted, the Attorney General, that there is \$2.5 billion worth of waste in the Medicaid program. I submitted that for the record earlier today. And, well, let us have at it.

Ms. CROCKETT. Will the gentleman yield?

Chairman COMER. Okay. Okay. So, the amendment to the amendment is to subpoena the Arizona Attorney General. Does anyone wish to speak on the amendment to the amendment? Mr.?

Mr. GARCIA. I will speak after Ms. Crockett.

Chairman COMER. Ms. Crockett.

Ms. CROCKETT. I just wanted to clarify, because I think the gentleman from Arizona said that this was over a year ago, a year and a half ago, if I am correct. Is that correct?

Mr. BIGGS. Are you asking me to yield? Yes, I will yield. What is the question?

Ms. CROCKETT. So, you said over a year and a half ago?

Mr. BIGGS. No, it was—I believe it was last summer, about a year ago.

Ms. CROCKETT. Okay. So, about a year ago, there was an opportunity for you as a Representative and presumably before you were actually running for office. I think the concern is about using Federal dollars to further political aspirations.

And as someone who was representing Arizona, there should have been an opportunity for you to do something to try to subpoena. You could have tried to open an investigation.

We know that the Republicans are the ones that control this Committee and have controlled this Committee for some time. So, I just wanted to say that I definitely am opposed to this particular portion of the—I guess it is the amendment to the amendment.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Fallon to speak on the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. FALLON. Yes, I support the amendment to the amendment because, I mean, just—a lot of us served in the state legislature, and I did for eight years in the House and Senate in Texas.

This is a systemic problem across all states. I want to—I mean, we are talking about hundreds of billions of dollars, of criminals and scum bags stealing money that is not going to where it is intended. So, I do not give a rat's nuggets if it is Arizona, Mississippi,

wherever. We need to be rooting this stuff out. So, I am fully in support of Mr. Biggs, and I think your efforts are noble.

I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Any other Members wish to—

Mr. FALLON. Or I yield to Mr. Biggs.

Mr. BIGGS. Yes, I appreciate the gentleman for yielding. I do find it rich to say, oh, you should have subpoenaed this a year ago. Just like you guys could have subpoenaed anybody you wanted to a year ago as well.

So, let me just add to this by saying our current Governor is being investigated, and I do not want to get into that because she is currently being investigated for corruption and abuse.—I am not trying to get into that.

What I am trying to get into is what I thought—I thought we would reach some comity here that we are going to be going after fraud wherever it sits in these social welfare programs.

And so, you did not like it. You thought I might be doing it for political purposes. It is not for political purposes. This is because Arizona has a systemic problem in their Medicaid program of \$2.5 billion fraud that the Democrat Attorney General pointed out. Let us have her come in and explain how this has happened and what needs to be done to fix the systemic problems in Arizona. Maybe that would be helpful to fix the problems nationwide. That is all.

I yield back to the gentleman from Texas. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Garcia for the amendment on the amendment.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you. Just a final comment on this. I oppose the amendment. And here is—to be very clear, today we talked about five states, all states with Democratic Governors. Focused on one. The motion that we are making as an amendment is very clear. It is to bring in one Republican Governor in comparison to what the Majority has proposed in the past, and that is where we are leaving it.

And so, at a minimum, the Majority should want to bring in one Republican compared to the six that we discussed today. And so, we are going to—I am going to close.

Chairman COMER. Would you yield?

Mr. GARCIA. Sure.

Chairman COMER. So, I am fine if there is fraud in any state—will you work with us to get Walz back in here so he can have an opportunity to defend what was stated today and to work with us on that?

Mr. GARCIA. I think that Governor Walz right now is looking at coming in to the Committee. Obviously, I am happy to have anyone in front of us that is willing to explain.

Chairman COMER. Well, a lot of people are looking, but, I mean, are they going to do it?

Mr. GARCIA. We are willing—Oversight Democrats are willing to talk to any person, any Governor, any person that can be in front of us that we can explain issues that are important to the American public. We have no issue with Governor Walz coming in to testify.

Chairman COMER. Any other Members seek recognition on the Biggs amendment to the Garcia amendment?

Mr. Perry.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, if it will make it less political, if the maker of the secondary amendment would like me to offer it in his name, coming from nowhere close to Arizona, to subpoena the Arizona Attorney General regarding her statements about known fraud in Arizona, I would be happy to do that.

Mr. BIGGS. I will let you do it. Have at it.

Mr. PERRY. Well, then, since he is willing to do it, we can then—

Chairman COMER. He would have to—Mr. Biggs would have to withdraw his amendment to the amendment.

Mrs. LUNA. Can we get back to Greenblatt?

Mr. BIGGS. Then I will withdraw and leave it in your capable hands.

Mr. PERRY. The gentleman has withdrawn. And then we can—I will make the same motion to subpoena, as a secondary amendment to the primary amendment to the primary resolution, the Attorney General from Arizona regarding her position and statements on fraud in Arizona in the Medicaid program.

Chairman COMER. I want to make sure everybody understands this. Representative Biggs has withdrawn his amendment to the amendment, and now Mr. Perry has filed an amendment to the amendment in the same language to subpoena the Arizona Attorney General.

Does everyone understand that?

Okay. Now, do any Democrats—Mr. Min, you have had your hand up over there.

Mr. MIN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I appreciated our conversation earlier today when you expressed very clearly that this should not be a partisan committee, that we should go after fraud in all forms, and at which point you also agreed that having some kind of investigative hearing into Mississippi might be appropriate.

I appreciate your support of this amendment to the bill. If we are going to have amendments to amendments, I guess the one question I have, and this might be a proposal, the Inspectors General were all fired at the beginning of Trump's term in his second term. Those are the primary watchdogs for protecting the American taxpayer from waste, fraud, and abuse of this kind.

So, why are we not calling in Pam Bondi and anybody else who might have had knowledge and input into the decision to fire these Inspectors General as well as their staffs?

And so, I guess I would propose an amendment to the amendment to the amendment that we have a hearing and subpoena Pam Bondi and others in this regard.

Chairman COMER. Are you making an official motion to amend the amendment?

Mr. MIN. Yes, I am.

Chairman COMER. And what is your motion?

Mr. MIN. That we subpoena Pam Bondi.

Chairman COMER. You are making a motion to subpoena Pam Bondi.

Mr. MIN. And anyone else with knowledge around the decisions and input on the decisions to fire and terminate the Inspectors General.

Chairman COMER. Now, I want to remind everybody they have called votes, and I have a feeling this is going to keep going on and on and on. But you have made a motion to amend the amendment to the amendment. Yes, you can only do that twice. That is a parliamentary rule. Okay. So, you are done speaking. All right.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Donalds.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee recess—or the Committee—do you want to call the question or do you just want to recess so we can go vote and come back and finish this up?

Chairman COMER. Okay, because we have votes called.

Mr. DONALDS. I am flexible either way.

Chairman COMER. Right. I think that is a fair—they called votes about ten minutes ago.

So, pursuant to the previous order, the Committee will recess until immediately following the votes.

The Committee stands in recess.

[Recess.]

Chairman COMER. The Committee will reconvene. And the Chair recognizes Mrs. Luna to talk about her motion that has been amended a couple of times.

The Chair recognizes Mrs. Luna.

Mrs. LUNA. So, in the name of avoiding watering down our initial amendment, I am going to withdraw the initial motion, Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Without objection, so ordered.

Okay. So, now the Chair recognizes Mrs. Luna for Luna motion three.

Mrs. LUNA. I think that was a Mace motion, sir. Oh, we are doing the next one? Okay.

Chairman COMER. So, all right. We are going to go ahead and do—the Chair recognizes Mrs. Luna from Florida for her third motion.

Mrs. LUNA. Yes. I do encourage all of my colleagues to support this. As you know, with what happened with recent events in Venezuela, there was a leak of classified information as well as resulting in one of the journalists that obtained that information—and I will say credits to the news agencies for realizing that American lives could be put in jeopardy if this leaked information was published. They did put the kibosh on it.

But after the fact, Seth Hart proceeded to dox the Delta Force commander, or a Delta Force commander, associated or thinking that they were associated with the mission in Venezuela, resulting in his children and his family being harassed and targeted, not just by activists here in the United States, but potentially by narco-terrorists.

I do encourage the entire Committee to issue the subpoena of Seth Harp, as he should be held accountable for potentially leaking classified information and doxing servicemembers, putting their lives and their family members at jeopardy by narco-terrorists.

Chairman COMER. Okay. So, Mrs. Luna has made that motion. The Chair recognizes Mr. Garcia for an amendment.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I do have an amendment to the motion made by Representative Luna. And to make that amendment, I just want to say, pursuant to clause 2(k)(6) of House Rule XI, the Committee shall subpoena co-executors of the Epstein estate, Darren Indyke and Richard Kahn to sit for depositions before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to explain the amendment.

Chairman COMER. Proceed.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As I know as you and so many others now—and surely Mrs. Luna is aware—Darren Indyke and Richard Kahn were Jeffrey Epstein's longtime lawyer and accountant.

Few people know more about what Epstein did and who he met with, and certainly his crimes, then the co-executors and beneficiaries of Epstein's estate.

We have heard directly from survivors, as we all know, about both of those gentlemen. And to get justice for the survivors, which I think all of us on this Committee want to get, we certainly should hear from these two men.

And, with that, I would like to both support Representative Luna's motion and make this amendment.

Chairman COMER. Does anyone else seek recognition on the Garcia amendment to the Luna motion?

The Chair recognizes Mrs. Luna.

Mrs. LUNA. I also encourage my colleagues to support this. These individuals can potentially give the Oversight Committee access to financial records and potentially name names.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Any other Member seek recognition? Seeing—okay. Yes, sir.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Yes, I just want to speak to the amendment.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead. Proceed. McGuire.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Just I think we all know in the military it should be apolitical. If somebody saved your life on the battlefield, you would not care if they were Black or White, Democrat, Republican, Independent, male or female. It should be apolitical.

And some people risk their time, some people risk their money, but our men and women in the military oftentimes risk their life or give their life for their freedom. And doxxing anyone in the military for any reason, it just goes against the founding principles of this country. It goes against everything that is great about our country, and it is totally wrong. And we should bring this guy in and hold him accountable.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

Any other Members seek recognition?

Seeing none, we are going to vote by voice on the Garcia amendment to the Luna motion.

All those in favor of the Garcia amendment, signify by saying aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman COMER. All those opposed, say no.

[No response.]

Chairman COMER. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the Garcia amendment to the Luna motion is agreed to.

Now, would anyone want to discuss the Luna motion, as amended?

Mr. GARCIA. I would just like to add, Mr. Chair, that I support and certainly recommend House Democrats to support the Luna amendment.

Chairman COMER. Any other Member seek recognition?

Seeing none, all those in favor of the Luna motion, as amended with the Garcia amendment, signify by saying aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman COMER. All those opposed, say no.

[Chorus of noes.]

Chairman COMER. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the motion is agreed to.

The Committee will now proceed with the Mace motion to subpoena the Department of I will recognize Ms. Mace to explain her motion.

Ms. MACE. Yes. This is to subpoena the immigration records of Ilhan Omar and her alleged brother-husband, and another husband whose names I cannot pronounce. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate any manner at any time under House Rule X.

And this particularly, the legislative thing that this would inform would identify reforms regarding immigration fraud and denaturalization processes, potential criminal liability, things that we need to address statutorily and legislatively, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Garcia to speak on the Mace amendment.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have an amendment to the motion made by Representative Mace.

Chairman COMER. State your amendment.

Mr. GARCIA. At the end of the motion, I would like to add: Pursuant to clause 2(k)(6) of House Rule XI, the Committee shall subpoena all documents and communications from the Department of Defense regarding the military service record of Representative Cory Mills of Florida; all documents, communications, and contracts from the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, of Interior, of Homeland Security and Department of State related to Representative Cory Mills of Florida; and any business in which he or any relative has a financial or controlling interest, including Pacem Defense, Pacem Solutions International LLC, ALS LLC; and any documents and communications from the Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Ed Martin in his personal capacity, and the White House regarding any communications around the February 2025 domestic violence incident in Washington, D.C., involving Representative Cory Mills of Florida.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to be recognized to explain the amendment.

Chairman COMER. Mr. Garcia amended the Mace motion.

Does any other Member seek recognition?

Mr. GARCIA. I would like to just comment on the motion.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead.

Ms. MACE. And then if I can comment after.

Chairman COMER. I will recognize Garcia, then Mace. Go ahead.

Mr. GARCIA. I just want to just begin by saying, broadly speaking, on the initial motion, Congresswoman Omar is a proud Member of this body and an American and as American as any Member of this body.

She is a public servant and a fighter for her constituents, and she represents the American Dream. And I know I, and House Democrats, are honored and proud to support her and to serve with her.

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar has endured horrific attacks her entire time in public office, and we admire her courage. My motion requests documents on Cory Mills, a Republican from Florida.

And I just want to note that this is not the best way of handling these types of issues, and we are introducing this only because this is being introduced on Representative Ilhan Omar. And so, we are forced to make this motion and this amendment to Representative Mace's, Nancy Mace's, motion.

So, with that, I conclude.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

Now, the Chair recognizes Ms. Mace to speak on the Garcia amendment to her motion.

Ms. MACE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I support Representative Garcia's amendment. And you beat me to it. I was going to do this on the House Armed Services Committee, and I am a little jealous that you beat me to it.

Sunlight is the best disinfectant. It is the best sunshine. And if there are individuals, I do not care about party. I do not care about affiliation. This needs to be getting—we need to get to the bottom of it and what is going on.

And, quite frankly, I do not think someone that allegedly is doing arms deals should be sitting on the Foreign Affairs Committee or the House Armed Services Committee. And if this is what gets to the bottom of what is happening over there, then I support it and I support the amendment, and let us do it.

Chairman COMER. Do you yield back? Do you yield to me?

Ms. MACE. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. So, I have had several Members request information about trying to determine if Ms. Omar was involved in any of the Somali fraud and this and that. The thing that I have told people is the Ethics Committee is set up to do that. That is what the Ethics Committee's sole purpose is, is to investigate Members.

So, we have got a motion by Mr. Garcia to amend Ms. Mace's motion. Both the amendment and the motion seek this Committee to investigate sitting Members of Congress. That is not something the Oversight Committee does, but, you know, we are a democratic committee and I am not telling anybody in here how to vote. You vote however you want.

But that is what the Ethics Committee's role is. That is their jurisdiction. And I just wanted to state that. And, again, look, I am for whatever. I am for transparency. You all vote the way you want. This Committee is wired, you are going to vote the way you want anyway.

I do not think the Ranking Member can tell his Members how to vote, and I cannot tell my Members how to vote. I am just telling you, that is what the Ethics Committee's sole purpose in life is. So, I am just stating that.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

Chairman COMER. Which one do we want—

Mr. Lynch.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I believe you are correct in your assessment that that is not something within our jurisdiction. That would mean that that motion would be out of order, not subject to a vote and let us do this anyway, even though it is not within our jurisdiction.

That is a jurisdiction of another committee, and we normally and regularly refer matters that are not within our jurisdiction to other committees. And that is how that should be handled, sir. That is my thought.

Chairman COMER. The previous Chairman of the—I am going to respond to Mr. Lynch's inquiry. The previous Chairwoman of the Committee, from New York—remind me—Maloney, she said the Oversight Committee has jurisdiction over anything and everything, and I kind of tend to believe that.

But now, the Ethics Committee has primary jurisdiction. There is no question about that. Now, do we have secondary jurisdiction? Possibly, probably, whatever. I am not—

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman, under Rule X, we have the ability. We have full oversight of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Chairman COMER. We can do pretty much what we want in this Committee, but I just want to make it very clear so we do not start going down this road or this Committee will just turn into, you know, investigating other Members, whoever is in control.

That is what the Ethics Committee is set up to do. And I am not—look, Ms. Mace, you can file any motion you want.

Ms. MACE. If someone beat their wife and it was covered up, you should find out. If someone married their brother to commit immigration fraud, we should find out. That is what this Committee can do.

Chairman COMER. I understand.

Mr. GARCIA. Let us not defame Members of Congress. Mr. Chairman, I just want to agree, first of all. I think Oversight Democrats, we do not believe either of these motions should be discussed. This is not the place to be going after Members in this way. If there is a concern about a Member, it should be at the Ethics Committee.

But if Members on the Majority are going to go after Members in our caucus, we are going to do the same. And so, if the Republican Majority wants to remove this amendment or vote this amendment down completely, we would join you on that, but what we are not going to do is allow the attack on one of our Members.

Chairman COMER. And I am not defending or opposing. I am just saying that is what that Committee is supposed to do.

The Chair recognizes—

Ms. MACE. This is what we do up here. We just protect each other, protect our own, and nobody ever gets held accountable for anything up here. This whole thing is BS.

Mr. LYNCH. It goes to the Ethics Committee and they will handle it.

Ms. MACE. Which then it dies in a black hole.

Chairman COMER. We are going to vote on this. Everybody is going to vote on this. We are going to vote on this because there has been a motion and an amendment. We are going to vote on the amendment and the motion. I am just saying that is what the Ethics Committee is supposed to do.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Perry.

Mr. PERRY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There are few times that myself and Mr. Lynch agree on things. I think he would admit that as I have. But on this occasion, I feel he is correct.

And while this Committee may have the jurisdiction to do all manner of things, I think this is a dangerous precedent to set. The Ethics Committee is set up specifically for this task.

And I empathize with Representative Mace that it seems like there is no accountability over and over again. And maybe in the case of Representative Omar and Representative Mills, I might even feel that way. But we have a process here for a reason, and the Ethics Committee is set up the way it is for a reason so that there is equal representation in a place that is hyper partisan over the smallest of things.

And so that there is a due process where American citizens, individuals in this body and serving Members are treated fairly. That is why we have that committee. And if we are going to run Members through a partisan committee, which all the other ones are set up to be so, I think that that is going to be something that we might enjoy the outcome of at the moment, but will not enjoy the outcome at some future time when we are in the Minority.

And so, on this occasion, I agree with Mr. Lynch. And I would encourage the Chair to render this motion out of order. And with my remaining time, I would cede some time to Mr. Lynch.

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentleman. And he is correct, we do not agree that often, but I respect the gentleman.

The other piece is this, is that anyone in the public can make an allegation of any Member here for any reason, political or personal or otherwise.

And if we are going to debate allegations from the public against Members on this Committee, then you are just exposed to whatever anyone throws at you. And all you got to do is spend about one minute on social media and think about the cruelty and falsity that can be tossed against any Member.

And then, what the gentlelady is saying is that we want to debate the merits and the veracity of those allegations against us here in an open committee rather than having it go to the Ethics Committee, who will be able to vet those allegations, and then if they are meaningful, bring something before the entire body.

But we open every Member now and in the future to terrible exposure to your reputation if you are going to handle every single allegation here in open public, regardless of how credible that allegation against a Member might be. I just think it is bad for the institution and there is another process that has worked in the past.

Thank you. I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. PERRY. And I yield, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Who has got the floor, Mr. Perry?

Mr. PERRY. I yield.

Chairman COMER. And would you yield to me for a minute?

Mr. PERRY. If you want to engage in a colloquy, absolutely.

Chairman COMER. I do not disagree with what Ms. Mace is trying to do. I do not disagree with what Mr. Garcia is trying to do. And I do not know—I have no idea what the Ethics Committee is doing on either of these. But I think it is disappointing that Ms. Omar was not here for the Minnesota Somalia hearing. I mean, that is something I think she should have attended. And I think Mills should, you know, answer questions on the House Floor.

I think they both—there are a lot of questions the American people have for both of them. So, I am just saying that is what the Ethics Committee is for.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Chair, did you just refer to it as a Somalia hearing?

Chairman COMER. Hold on. It was a hearing on Minnesota, fraud in the welfare system.

Ms. MACE. Somalians committed billions dollars of fraud. It was a Somali hearing.

Chairman COMER. There was Somali fraud. There was Somalia fraud. There were lots of Somalia fraud allegations today.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, if we can continue our colloquy, you are the Chairman of the Committee and you can make a ruling. Now, we might disagree with the ruling of the Chair, but I would tell you it is my position and my recommendation, humbly and respectfully, to the Chair that the Chair should render this motion invalid.

And if we want to challenge the ruling of the Chair, then we can do that and have a vote on that. But I think this is of substance enough and import enough that we treat it with the gravity that Mr. Lynch and others have suggested, not only in this circumstance, feeling the same way you do and in total honesty, quite honestly, the same way that Representative Mace does about whether this has been adjudicated appropriately or timely or what have you.

The point is, is this the place, is this the process, to do those things? And I would agree with my colleagues on either side of the aisle that this is not the place to do what is being implied here in this motion. And with that—

Chairman COMER. And to answer your question on the ruling of the Chair, you can ask the question. That was what Mr. Lynch started with. We can vote on whatever we want. In consulting with the parliamentarian, we can vote for this. We can do this. I am just saying that that is what the Ethics Committee is for.

Mr. PERRY. I understand.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Garcia, then—

Mr. GARCIA. I think we may have—I understand—first, I want to also, I am associating myself with the comments that were just made, and particularly with Representative Lynch.

I think, again, this is not the appropriate place for this, and we have filed a substitute motion because of the main motion that was filed.

What I would like to do at this time is I am going to withdraw my motion, and instead, do a motion to table the Mace motion. And if that motion does not pass successfully, then I will bring my substitute motion on Representative Mills back to the floor.

But now we have an opportunity with this additional amendment, I am withdrawing the Mills amendment, and my new motion amendment is to table the initial Mace motion.

I hope everyone votes yes on that. I think that solves the issues that a majority of us are trying to solve, and we can move on to the next item. So, that is the new motion.

Chairman COMER. So, Mr. Garcia made a motion to table. That is not debatable.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Chairman, I do have a question.

Chairman COMER. It is not debatable. I am sorry. But state your request. You are a good Member, Mr. Palmer.

Mr. PALMER. I just have a question and—

Chairman COMER. Do it quick because it is not debatable, but anyway, go ahead.

Mr. PALMER. It is not about the motion to table. It is about under the Ethics Committee, if they find evidence against a Member, they can make recommendations for censure, for removal.

If we were to conduct something like that here, what power does this Committee have? Is it the same power as the Ethics Committee? I really—I agree with Mr. Perry and Mr. Lynch that this might be a bridge too far. And if we are going to do this, then we need to know what the consequences are going forward for any other Member who might, including a Member of this Committee, who might have issues raised.

How far does this go other than just, you know, a public trial? I yield back.

Chairman COMER. All right. So, all those in favor of the motion to table signify by saying aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman COMER. All those opposed, say no.

[Chorus of noes.]

Chairman COMER. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the motion to table is agreed to.

Is there any other business which needs to come before the Committee? The Chair recognizes Mr. Higgins and then we will recognize Ms. Pressley.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, I had sought recognition.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead. You are recognized.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, I had endeavored to remain silent, but I am compelled to clarify for the citizenry watching and remind my colleagues.

Let me just ask you, Mr. Chairman, you are Chairman of the Oversight Committee. Does this Committee enjoy and do you possess the power to subpoena?

Chairman COMER. Yes, sir.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you very much. Does that authority to subpoena require a vote by this entire Committee or debate regarding votes for a subpoena of material or—

Chairman COMER. No.

Mr. HIGGINS [continuing]. People?

Chairman COMER. No.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you. So we are a serious investigative committee body, and yet, we are presenting to the American people the concept that this is our subpoena procedure, that a Member has to present a motion and there has to be a vote and absurd debate back and forth, that this is the means by which we determine whether or not a subpoena is issued in the Oversight Committee?

I think it is insulting to the seriousness of the work that we do and that the staff of this Committee performs every day. Every day.

And seeking a subpoena, might I add, let me just put this out there, it is a furtherance of compulsion. Listen to your Uncle Clay, America. You do not just normally start out with a subpoena introduced as a vote by a Member on a guy. This poor guy, Seth Harp, I do not know who he is. I had to Google him.

We have not reached out to him and asked him to come before this Committee and he said no. That is normally the first step. You call and email. You have an official communication from the Committee reaching out to an American citizen, say, we would like to talk to you. As part of our legislative purpose, we are conducting investigative work. You are included. Will you come talk to us? Then if they say no, you take the next step, which is usually a more strongly worded letter. And then you get to the point where you can rightfully use your subpoena authority in a judicious and conservative manner.

And yet, because of the behavior of this Committee in recent months, it has been presented to the American people via C-SPAN that the way we pursue a subpoena in this Committee is by the introduction of a motion for a vote to subpoena something or someone. That is not the way it is done.

Mr. Chairman, I am voting no on all of this, because I object to this process that is false and not reflective of the serious investigative work that the Oversight Committee performs day in and day out.

And I yield to the Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. Thank you, Clay, very well said. Very well said.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Pressley.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My motion to subpoena is pretty straightforward. It is timely and also germane. It is the only subpoena that is relevant to today's hearing.

Earlier today, a woman was shot multiple times and killed by immigration enforcement agents in Minnesota while we were holding a hearing on the state. And while there are claims that ICE did nothing wrong, the officials in Minnesota say otherwise. And since this Committee is responsible for oversight of Federal law enforcement, we must investigate.

This subpoena will help us get to the truth, and it should have bipartisan support and I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back.

Any other Member seek recognition on the Pressley motion?

Mr. GARCIA. Yes.

Chairman COMER. Who said—do we have anybody on our side? Okay, Mr. Ranking Member. And then I will go to—

Mr. GARCIA. I will actually—I just want to add that I obviously support the Pressley motion. I think it is relevant to today's conversation, so I want to thank her for the motion.

I want to yield the rest of my time to Congressman Krishnamoorthi, please.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. I just wanted to give a little context to Ms. Pressley's excellent motion for those who have not had a chance to see this video.

This video from Minnesota is deeply, deeply disturbing. It shows a Federal immigration enforcement operation on a residential street in south Minneapolis where families live. Agents move in on a civilian vehicle. Weapons are drawn. The car is boxed in. Shots are fired. A woman is struck and dies. And if you look at the video, you can see that the officer actually shoots the woman point-blank in front of the windshield.

The footage does not show an unavoidable imminent threat or that lethal force was the only option. From what can be seen, the woman was trying to drive away. That raises serious questions about judgment and deescalation.

A woman is dead. Her family now carries a permanent loss. This should never have happened. When Federal agents use deadly force, the burden of justification is extraordinarily high, regardless of the mission.

Oversight requires sworn testimony. Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, must appear before this Committee. I will press to subpoena Secretary Noem and force a vote again and again until she explains on the record why a woman is dead following a Federal operation captured on video in a residential neighborhood.

If Secretary Noem has nothing to hide, she should have nothing to fear from testifying before this Committee. I hope she will come before this Committee voluntarily. This Committee must do its duty. Thank you, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Yield back. Any other Member seek recognition?

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Gosar, and then I will get to Clay.

Mr. GOSAR. Yes. You know, I think the air of what the gentleman is talking about is good, but I think it has to be across the board. And what I mean by that is that there were instigating factors by the mayor that antagonized the situation.

And anybody that—if it was found that there is innocence here, then we should presume everybody is innocent until proven guilty, that they also are on the line, that if they combatively took on the police or the—not the police, but the folks from immigration—they

should be charged as well. So, I think it should be open all the way across the board so that it is equal and adjudicated.

Chairman COMER. Do you yield to Mr. Higgins? Would you yield to Mr. Higgins?

Mr. GOSAR. Yes.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you. I thank my colleague.

Mr. Chairman, the split-second decisions that an officer has to make on the street and—everything is on the line, literally.

And whereas I fully support a thorough investigation of this officer-involved shooting and every officer-involved shooting, I ask my colleagues to back up from this request, and I am going to oppose this motion but, actually, I think it should be withdrawn, because I ask that my colleagues look at this motion within the context of what you are actually asking for.

You are asking for a slice of evidence void of the full spectrum of the required investigation. This is the sort of thing that we should absolutely, as a Republic well-rooted in criminal justice procedure over the course of 250 years of learning and growing and developing as a Nation regarding the protection of the innocent, which is every American accused of a crime until proven guilty.

And the process for investigation should be thorough and slow and calm. And here we are again. We are leaning toward “show me the video.”

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. PRESSLEY. Would the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. HIGGINS. And I will close by saying—I am going to yield my time back to Mr. Gosar, but I will close with the time that has been yielded to me by saying, maybe I am the only guy in here that has brought—

Ms. ANSARI. Would you yield for a question, Mr. Higgins?

Mr. HIGGINS. No, madam. The time was yielded to me. You can be recognized. When you are recognized, you can ask me the question. I am happy to answer.

Ms. ANSARI. Okay.

Mr. HIGGINS. Maybe I am the only guy in here that has brought many people in the back of my squad car to jail to be booked for the initial arrest. It was not uncommon,—hear me, my colleagues. It was not uncommon from the back seat of my unit, they would say, show me the video, man. Show me the proof, man. And I would say, sir, this is the arrest part. Later comes the trial part, and you will have a shot to look at all the evidence that the prosecution has.

So, we are falling into that category of being too quick and cute for our own good here. We should allow the investigative authority under thorough and complete and vigorous oversight by Congress, yes, but not to the extent that we are interfering with the investigative authority by voting and mandating that evidence of an investigation, a small slice of it be presented for public review. We should be calm and judicious.

And I yield the time that was kindly yielded to me back to Mr. Gosar.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman. And I move to table the motion.

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Chairman, can I speak on the motion?

Chairman COMER. Not debatable. Motion has been made by Mr. Gosar of tabling the Pressley motion.

All those in favor of tabling, signify by saying aye.

[Chorus of ayes.]

Chairman COMER. All those opposed, no.

[Chorus of noes.]

Chairman COMER. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the motion to table is agreed to.

Mr. GARCIA. Can we get a recorded vote on this?

Chairman COMER. A recorded vote has been ordered. The clerk will call the role.

The Clerk. Mr. Jordan?

Mr. JORDAN. Yes.

The Clerk. Mr. Jordan votes yes.

Mr. Turner?

[No response.]

The Clerk. Mr. Gosar?

Mr. GOSAR. Yes.

The Clerk. Mr. Gosar votes yes.

Ms. Foxx?

[No response.]

The Clerk. Mr. Grothman?

Mr. GROTHMAN. Yes.

The Clerk. Mr. Grothman votes yes.

Mr. Cloud?

Mr. CLOUD. Yes.

The Clerk. Mr. Cloud votes yes.

Mr. Palmer?

Mr. PALMER. Yes.

The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes yes.

Mr. Higgins?

Mr. HIGGINS. Yes.

The Clerk. Mr. Higgins votes yes.

Mr. Sessions?

Mr. SESSIONS. Yes.

The Clerk. Mr. Sessions votes yes.

Mr. Biggs?

Mr. BIGGS. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Biggs votes aye.

Ms. Mace?

Ms. MACE. No.

The Clerk. Ms. Mace votes no.

Mr. Fallon?

Mr. FALLON. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Fallon votes aye.

Mr. Donalds?

[No response.]

The Clerk. Mr. Perry?

Mr. PERRY. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Perry votes aye.

Mr. Timmons?

Mr. TIMMONS. Aye.

The Clerk. Mr. Timmons votes aye.

Mr. Burchett?
Mr. BURCHETT. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Burchett votes aye.
Ms. Boebert?
Ms. BOEBERT. Aye.
The Clerk. Ms. Boebert votes aye.
Mrs. Luna?
[No response.]
The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
[No response.]
The Clerk. Mr. Burlison?
Mr. BURLISON. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Burlison votes aye.
Mr. Crane?
Mr. CRANE. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Crane votes aye.
Mr. Jack?
Mr. JACK. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Jack votes aye.
Mr. McGuire?
Mr. MCGUIRE. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. McGuire votes aye.
Mr. Gill?
Mr. GILL. Aye.
The Clerk. Mr. Gill votes aye.
Mr. Garcia?
Mr. GARCIA. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Garcia votes no.
Ms. Norton?
Ms. NORTON. No.
The Clerk. Ms. Norton votes no.
Mr. Lynch?
Mr. LYNCH. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Lynch votes no.
Mr. Krishnamoorthi?
Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Krishnamoorthi votes no.
Mr. Khanna?
Mr. KHANNA. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Khanna votes no.
Mr. Mfume?
Mr. MFUME. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Mfume votes no.
Ms. Brown?
[No response.]
The Clerk. Ms. Stansbury?
Ms. STANSBURY. No.
The Clerk. Ms. Stansbury votes no.
Mr. Frost?
Mr. FROST. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Frost votes no.
Ms. Lee?
Ms. LEE. No.
The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes no.

Mr. Casar?
 Mr. CASAR. No.
 The Clerk. Mr. Casar votes no.
 Ms. Crockett?
 Ms. CROCKETT. No.
 The Clerk. Ms. Crockett votes no.
 Ms. Randall?
 Ms. RANDALL. No.
 The Clerk. Ms. Randall votes no.
 Mr. Subramanyam?
 Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. No.
 The Clerk. Mr. Subramanyam votes no.
 Ms. Ansari?
 Ms. ANSARI. No.
 The Clerk. Ms. Ansari votes no.
 Mr. Bell?
 Mr. BELL. No.
 The Clerk. Mr. Bell votes no.
 Ms. Simon?
 Ms. SIMON. No.
 The Clerk. Ms. Simon votes no.
 Mr. Min?
 Mr. MIN. No.
 The Clerk. Mr. Min votes no.
 Mr. Walkinshaw?
 Mr. WALKINSHAW. No.
 The Clerk. Mr. Walkinshaw votes no.
 Ms. Pressley?
 Ms. PRESSLEY. No.
 The Clerk. Ms. Pressley votes no.
 Ms. Tlaib?
 Ms. TLAIB. No.
 The Clerk. Ms. Tlaib votes no.
 Mr. Chairman?
 Chairman COMER. Yes.
 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman votes yes.
 Chairman COMER. Has any Member not voted or any Member wish to change your vote?
 Seeing none, will the clerk tally the votes?
 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on this vote, the ayes are 19, the nays are 21.
 Chairman COMER. The motion to table fails. And we will proceed to, I assume, vote, unless people want to debate this more.
 Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair?
 Chairman COMER. Any other Member seek recognition?
 Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair?
 Chairman COMER. Mr. Fallon, go ahead.
 Mr. FALLON. Chairman, I will be very brief because it has been a long day for all of us. Listen, I am all for transparency. This incident, as the Member from Massachusetts said, this incident just happened today. I would like to give DHS a chance to release anything related to this. This is a very serious matter. I have only seen one video myself. I have heard that there are other angles. So, I would like to see the process play out.

And this is—I think this is out of order and it is not our role. So, I agree, yes, that we need to learn the truth and see all the evidence, but I am going to trust the process.

And I yield back.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. Do you yield to Ms. Mace?

Mr. FALLON. Yes, I yield to Ms. Mace.

Ms. MACE. And I will be fairly quick. I support the subpoena. After the first two videos went viral, there is a third video that appeared to show the ICE agent being struck by the vehicle. My understanding, he is in the hospital now. And so, I think getting it out there on what happened—again, sunlight is the best disinfectant.

But I also want to recognize, as I am supporting this subpoena, why this happened. Why we are here today is because, for years now, ICE agents, police officers, conservatives, Republicans, have been dehumanized. ICE agents have been called Nazis, fascists. Today, we heard the Governor of Minnesota, Tim Walz, literally try to incite violence and a riot and war against the Federal Government today. You heard the Mayor of Minneapolis drop the “F” bomb.

And so, when I hear my colleagues across the other side of the aisle talk about judgment and deescalation, we are the ones that have been judged. ICE officers have been judged. The deescalation is not happening. This violent rhetoric is causing violence, and people feel emboldened to be violent.

The other thing I want to mention is that today Kristi Noem—bring her to the Committee. I support that. She did address this today, what happened in public. It was one of the first things she talked about this afternoon, right after it happened, I believe within an hour or two. She very publicly provided an answer that was very clear and detailed on what happened and why.

But I would encourage everyone to think about why we are here today. I mean, and this kind of rhetoric has just got to stop. But release it all. Release all the camera footage, body cam. I am all for it, and I will be voting for it.

Thank you, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back.

The Chair recog—

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. Okay. We will recognize Ranking Member, then we will go to Burchett.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you.

No, I was just going to say that obviously the motion to table did not go through, and Oversight Democrats are ready to vote on the motion.

Chairman COMER. Burchett.

Mr. BURCHETT. Point of clarification. What exactly are we voting on?

Chairman COMER. We are voting on a motion to subpoena—a Pressley motion to subpoena the Department of Homeland Security for all documents and footage related to the murder of a woman by ICE in Minneapolis, Minnesota, today.

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Chairman, I want to clarify that word.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead.

Mr. TIMMONS. The "death" of a woman.

Chairman COMER. Well, it says "murder" on the motion.

Mr. TIMMONS. Okay. Well.

Ms. CROCKETT. And, Mr. Chair? Mr. Chair?

Chairman COMER. Question.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Chair, I just want to be clear, because I am not sure if it is stated in the motion and you failed to read it, but I would like the record to reflect that the woman who was killed, her name is Renee Nicole Good, so that hopefully we will not have any confusion about—

Chairman COMER. It is not in the motion. But question has been called for. We are going to vote on this.

The clerk will call the roll.

The Clerk. Mr. Jordan?

Mr. JORDAN. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Jordan votes no.

Mr. Turner?

[No response.]

The Clerk. Mr. Gosar?

Mr. GOSAR. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Gosar votes no.

Ms. Foxx?

[No response.]

The Clerk. Mr. Grothman?

Mr. GROTHMAN. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Grothman votes no.

Mr. Cloud?

Mr. CLOUD. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Cloud votes no.

Mr. Palmer?

Mr. PALMER. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

Mr. Higgins? Mr. Higgins?

Mr. HIGGINS. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Higgins votes no.

Mr. Sessions?

Mr. SESSIONS. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Sessions votes no.

Mr. Biggs?

Mr. BIGGS. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Biggs votes no.

Ms. Mace?

Ms. MACE. I did not realize it said "murder." I am a no. This was not murder.

The Clerk. Ms. Mace votes no.

Mr. Fallon?

Mr. FALLON. Nay.

The Clerk. Mr. Fallon votes nay.

Mr. Donalds?

[No response.]

The Clerk. Mr. Perry?

Mr. PERRY. No.

The Clerk. Mr. Perry votes no.

Mr. Timmons?
Mr. TIMMONS. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Timmons votes no.
Mr. Burchett?
Mr. BURCHETT. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Burchett votes no.
Ms. Boebert?
Ms. BOEBERT. No.
The Clerk. Ms. Boebert votes no.
Mrs. Luna?
[No response.]
The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
[No response.]
The Clerk. Mr. Burlison?
Mr. BURLISON. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Burlison votes no.
Mr. Crane?
Mr. CRANE. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Crane votes no.
Mr. Jack?
Mr. JACK. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Jack votes no.
Mr. McGuire?
Mr. MCGUIRE. No.
The Clerk. Mr. McGuire votes no.
Mr. Gill?
Mr. GILL. No.
The Clerk. Mr. Gill votes no.
Mr. Garcia?
Mr. GARCIA. Yes.
The Clerk. Mr. Garcia votes yes.
Ms. Norton?
Ms. NORTON. Yes.
The Clerk. Ms. Norton votes yes.
Mr. Lynch?
Mr. LYNCH. Yes.
The Clerk. Mr. Lynch votes yes.
Mr. Krishnamoorthi?
Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Yes.
The Clerk. Mr. Krishnamoorthi votes yes.
Mr. Khanna?
Mr. KHANNA. Yes.
The Clerk. Mr. Khanna votes yes.
Mr. Mfume?
Mr. MFUME. Yes.
The Clerk. Mr. Mfume votes yes.
Ms. Brown?
[No response.]
The Clerk. Ms. Stansbury?
Ms. STANSBURY. Yes.
The Clerk. Ms. Stansbury votes yes.
Mr. Frost?
Mr. FROST. Yes.
The Clerk. Mr. Frost votes yes.

Ms. Lee?
 Ms. LEE. Yes.
 The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes yes.
 Mr. Casar?
 Mr. CASAR. Yes.
 The Clerk. Mr. Casar votes yes.
 Ms. Crockett?
 Ms. CROCKETT. Yes.
 The Clerk. Ms. Crockett votes yes.
 Ms. Randall?
 Ms. RANDALL. Yes.
 The Clerk. Ms. Randall votes yes.
 Mr. Subramanyam?
 Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Yes.
 The Clerk. Mr. Subramanyam votes yes.
 Ms. Ansari?
 Ms. ANSARI. Yes.
 The Clerk. Ms. Ansari votes yes.
 Mr. Bell?
 Mr. BELL. Yes.
 The Clerk. Mr. Bell votes yes.
 Ms. Simon?
 Ms. SIMON. Yes.
 The Clerk. Ms. Simon votes yes.
 Mr. Min?
 Mr. MIN. Yes.
 The Clerk. Mr. Min votes yes.
 Mr. Walkinshaw?
 Mr. WALKINSHAW. Yes.
 The Clerk. Mr. Walkinshaw votes yes.
 Ms. Pressley?
 Ms. PRESSLEY. Yes.
 The Clerk. Ms. Pressley votes yes.
 Ms. Tlaib?
 Ms. TLAIB. Yes.
 The Clerk. Ms. Tlaib votes yes.
 Mr. Chairman?
 Chairman COMER. No.
 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman votes no.
 Chairman COMER. Has any other Member—does any other Member wish to vote? If not, any Member wish to change your vote?
 Seeing none, the clerk will tally the vote.
 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on this vote, the ayes are 20, the nays are 20.
 Chairman COMER. It is a tie, so the motion fails.
 Does any other Member have any business before the Committee?
 Seeing none, with that and without objection, all Members have five legislative days within which to submit materials and additional written questions for the witnesses which will be forwarded to the witnesses.

If there is no further business, without objection, the Committee stands adjourned.
[Whereupon, at 6:39 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

