

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

December 8, 2022

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Confronting White Supremacy (Part VII): The Evolution of Anti-Democratic Extremist Groups and the Ongoing Threat to Democracy”

On **Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and remotely on the Zoom video platform**, the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties will host a hybrid hearing on “Confronting White Supremacy (Part VII): The Evolution of Anti-Democratic Extremist Groups and the Ongoing Threat to Democracy.”

I. BACKGROUND

This hearing will conclude a series of seven Subcommittee hearings focused on confronting white supremacy.¹ White supremacist ideology undergirds the core tenets of other

¹ See Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, *Hearing on Confronting White Supremacy (Part I): The Consequences of Inaction* (May 15, 2019) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/confronting-white-supremacy-part-i-the-consequences-of-inaction>); Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, *Hearing on Confronting White Supremacy (Part II): Adequacy of the Federal Response* (June 4, 2019) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/confronting-white-supremacy-part-ii-adequacy-of-the-federal-response>); Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, *Hearing on Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part III): Addressing the Transnational Terrorist Threat* (September 20, 2019) (online at https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings?subcommittee=803&congress_number=804); Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, *Hearing on Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part IV): White Supremacy in Blue—The Infiltration of Local Police Departments* (September 29, 2020) (online at https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings?subcommittee=803&congress_number=804); Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, *Hearing on Confronting White Supremacy, Hearing on Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part V): Examining the Rise of Militia Extremism* (May 26, 2021) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/subcommittees/civil-rights-and-civil-liberties-117th-congress?page=4>); Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, *Hearing on Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part VI): Examining the Biden Administration’s Counterterrorism Strategy* (September 29, 2021) (online at

forms of extremism that have become more prominent in recent years, including conspiracy theories like QAnon, the anti-LGBTQ+ movement, and the election denial and anti-government rhetoric that contributed to the attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021. This broad cross-section of ideological extremism is infecting American life as more traditional white supremacy groups like Patriot Front and the Proud Boys move toward a decentralized organizational model that experts believe includes more than 500 active organizations the country.²

The FBI and DHS have recognized white supremacy as the deadliest domestic terror threat facing the United States.³ Since the Subcommittee’s September 29, 2021, hearing on “Confronting White Supremacy (Part VI): Examining the Biden Administration’s Counterterrorism Strategy,” there have been several developments involving the federal plan to counter white supremacist violence, including the addition of new DHS Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) grant priorities for historically underserved communities. Although some progress has been made, the Subcommittee continues to have concerns about the federal government’s approach. For example, federal officials across administrations have been unable to provide adequate responses to the Subcommittee’s inquiries about the extent of extremist infiltration of law enforcement. They also lack data to track and quantify the threat posed by white supremacy, or a strategy to address the disinformation that often inspires white supremacist violence⁴

Amid increasing incidents of political violence against elected leaders and the growing presence of anti-government and white supremacist paramilitary groups terrorizing government officials and the LGBTQ+, Black, Jewish, and immigrant communities, the federal government must treat this domestic terrorism threat as a matter of urgent concern and develop more robust strategies to mitigate the effect of this poisonous ideology and fortify our democracy.

II. HEARING PURPOSE

This hearing will serve as summation of the “Confronting White Supremacy” series, which highlighted the sprawling nature of the domestic terrorism threat and detailed the consequences of inaction by contextualizing the proliferation of white nationalism and political violence.

III. WITNESSES

<https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/confronting-violent-white-supremacy-part-vi-examining-the-biden-administration>).

² See generally Southern Poverty Law Center, *Antigovernment Movement* (online at www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/antigovernment).

³ Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Testimony of Assistant Director Michael McGarrity, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Neumann, Department of Homeland Security *Hearing on Confronting Violent White Supremacy (Part II): Adequacy of the Federal Response* (June 4, 2019) (online at www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-116hhrg36828/html/CHRG-116hhrg36828.htm)

⁴ House Oversight Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Responses of the Department Justice (Oct. 24, 2022).

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