

Opening Statement

Chairman Darrell Issa

Markup of H.R. 3229, Judicial Redaction Authority

- As Chairman of the Courts Subcommittee, I recognize the importance of judicial security needs.
- Federal judges hear cases involving hardened criminals on a regular basis, although not every threat to a federal judge comes from a known gang member.
- Federal judges and their families should not be at risk for simply doing their jobs.
- Congress provides funding for a variety of judicial security needs by building secure courthouses, staffing metal detectors at the entrances, and so on.
- But sometimes, there are simple ways to address security issues without expending taxpayer dollars.
- One such method is to redact specific information from judicial financial disclosure reports that could be used to target a judge in

their home or other unsecured location when they face an active threat.

- This redaction authority has been in place since 1998 and it has been both expanded and extended since then, now covering family members.
- This legislation that I introduced with my colleague from New York would extend the redaction authority for another ten years until December 31, 2027.
- There is no financial impact and it serves an obvious purpose – don't let those who are trying to harm federal judges and their families know where they live and work.
- I urge my colleagues to support this important judicial security legislation.
- This extension is the highest priority of the Judicial Branch this year.
- Just last week, I met with Judges from my home state of California that serve on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. They stressed the

importance of this issue to their personal safety and the safety of their loved ones.

- I am proud to support this bill and hope that you will join me in securing this necessary authority for the gatekeepers of our justice system.

