

Chairman Mike Kelly
Opening Statement

Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump

**“BUSINESS MEETING TO CONSIDER FINAL REPORT OF FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS”**

Thursday, December 5 at 11:30 a.m. in 2141 Rayburn HOB

- House Resolution 1367, was adopted in the House of Representatives by a 416-0 vote on July 24th. The resolution established the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump.
- Section 2, clause 2 of the resolution directed the Task Force to “issue a final report of its findings to the House not later than December 13, 2024, including any recommendations for legislative reforms necessary to prevent future security lapses.”
- Today, the Task Force is meeting to fulfill this charge and consider the “Final Report of Findings and Recommendations.”

- The report is the product of an investigation spanning just under five months by the Task Force.
- I commend my partner and friend Ranking Member Jason Crow, all the Members of the Task Force, the staff of the Task Force, and all the staff of the Members who supported this investigation.
- I also thank Speaker Mike Johnson and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries for working together to launch and support the needs of this investigation.
- This support includes the passage of H.Res. 1470 in September, which expanded the mandate of the Task Force following the second attempt to assassinate President-elect Donald J. Trump on September 15th in West Palm Beach, Florida.

- Our work has underscored that there is bipartisan ground for working together to protect our democracy from threats of violence.
- I am especially proud of the work the Task Force completed to get clear and complete answers about the security failures that occurred in Butler on July 13.
- This report, and the transcripts we will release, thoroughly explain the multiple points of failure that occurred this day.
- It is also a roadmap for addressing the issues that contributed to and revealed problems inside the world's premier protection entity.
- The Task Force received substantial cooperation from the Secret Service – as well as state and local entities – which allowed the Task Force to make clear findings and recommendations about security failures.

- However, the same cannot be said for all questions about July 13.
- Shooter Thomas Crooks' motivations remain largely a mystery. Despite repeated requests for information the FBI and Department of Justice never shared information about Crooks' online activity, notes or transcripts of interviews with his family members and other associates.
- Limitations on information shared with the Task Force restricted our investigation from creating a clear picture about who Crooks spent time with, how he spent his hours online, or where he traveled in the days and weeks leading up to his assassination attempt.
- Leaders in the next Congress may wish to continue investigating these and other outstanding questions.
- One of the topics our bipartisan report covers are areas where we asked for cooperation from federal agencies and did not receive it.

- We also include a recommendation to Congress that it should find means to clarify its right to obtain law enforcement sensitive information.

[PAUSE]

- I am extremely proud of work the Task Force performed in a limited time frame.
- My constituents in Butler have expressed gratitude for the work of the Task Force.
- I now recognize the Ranking Member for five minutes.