



March 21, 2023

Speaker Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy:

Facts First USA is a bipartisan organization focused on ensuring that our national discourse is grounded in facts and honest debate. We are writing to you and your leadership team regarding shocking admissions by Representative James Comer that demonstrate his willingness to abuse his power and authority to target political foes and private citizens.

We use the term admissions purposefully. These are not allegations reported in today's *New York Times* story.¹ Instead, Representative Comer admitted, almost proudly, engaging in this conduct on the record.

These disturbing acknowledgements raise serious questions about Representative Comer's fitness to serve as Chair of House Oversight. They include:

- Representative Comer admitting he dropped an inquiry into Jared Kushner's investment firm receiving \$2 billion from the main Saudi Arabian sovereign wealth fund after leaving the White House because it was politically unsuitable;
- Representative Comer admitting his involvement in stealing and disseminating emails from a law firm's private server to attempt to discredit allegations from a former girlfriend that Representative Comer abused her and drove her to an abortion clinic; and
- Representative Comer accepting special treatment from a local deputy sheriff who had pulled him over for speeding, but then let him go, after stating, "We going to get Biden or not?"

If Representative Comer is brazen enough to admit to using illegally obtained information from an e-mail server to smear a private citizen – conduct even George Santos hasn't been accused of – what else has he done that is not yet known?

¹ Jonathan Swan & Luke Broadwater, *Comer, Republicans' Investigative Chief, Embraces Role of Biden Antagonist*, N.Y. Times (March 21, 2023), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/21/us/politics/james-comer-republican-oversight-biden.html?smid=nytcare-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

Due to the seriousness of each of these actions, and the fact that Representative Comer has publicly confessed to all of them, he must be immediately removed from serving as Chair of House Oversight until a full investigation can be undertaken by the House Ethics Committee.

This morning, while speaking at your caucuses' retreat in Florida, you said that you were not necessarily defending former President Trump but were defending "equal justice."² Putting aside the fact that many people have gone to prison for the very crimes former President Trump has engaged in, surely you agree that nothing could be more antithetical to the idea of equal justice than the Chair of the House Oversight Committee engaging in conduct that itself warrants a thorough review because of its impropriety and possible criminality.

In the interests of your own stated commitment to equal justice, we look forward to your prompt attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/Maria Cardona
Co-Chair

/s/David Jolly
Co-Chair

cc: Rep. Steve Scalise
Rep. Tom Emmer
Rep. Elise Stefanik
Rep. Gary Palmer

² Leigh Ann Caldwell, Washington Post (March 21, 2023), available at <https://twitter.com/LACaldwellDC/status/1638162840728076290>.