



To: Allied Parties
From: David Brock, President
Re: Connecting Trump's Indictment to the Corrupt Bargain and the Republican Investigations
Date: April 11, 2023

The current and likely additional indictments against former President Trump promise to take up the majority of the oxygen in political media for the foreseeable future — and it's critical that it does not pull the harsh spotlight off the dangerous and nakedly partisan work being done by House Republicans to protect their insurrectionist leader and undermine our democracy. This moment is a perfect opportunity to further tie House Republicans to the MAGA extremists of their party. The Trump indictment(s) ultimately stand as an indictment of House Republicans and their efforts to shield Trump and other lawbreakers, including those within their own conference.

The key messages to focus on while discussing the Trump indictments are:

- **Unprecedented Campaign of Harassment & Intimidation of Local Law Enforcement by House Republicans to Shield Trump.** Even before the indictments were unsealed House Republicans rushed to claim that the charges were politically motivated. In truth, the indictments authorized by the grand jury reinforce what we've known and seen time and again: Trump will violate the law to gain and hold power. What shocks the conscience, though, is the degree to which House Republicans will use their majority status to protect Trump's criminality.
 - *Obstruction* – We have previously warned these sham investigations are about obstructing examination of Republicans' own criminal behavior, including complicity in the January 6th MAGA attack on Congress, Congressman Jordan defying a subpoena, and Congressman Comer admitting to using stolen emails to attack the woman who credibly accused him of abuse. House Republican's obstruction for Trump continues this pattern and we expect more of the same if there are additional indictments to come.
 - *Ongoing Criminal Matter* – Unlike obstructing investigations into Comer's & Jordan's prior bad acts, for Trump House Republicans are interfering with law enforcement and prosecutors ongoing criminal investigation and enforcement. Legal analyst Glenn Kirschner has pointed out Jim Jordan [may himself be violating](#) a NY state law against "obstructing governmental administration." Lock him up?
 - *Is Trump Directing the Obstruction?* We already know that McCarthy & Stefanik have set up a backchannel communications system to [keep Trump in the loop](#) on Republican's sham investigations. And as House Republicans jump to obstruct

current and future investigations into Trump how closely are they following the instructions of the criminal defendant himself?

- **Republicans Are Not Suggesting Trump is Innocent, Just That He Should Not Be Held Accountable for his Criminal Conduct.** The grand jury indicted Trump on 34 counts of violating New York law by filing fraudulent business records to boost his chances to win a presidential election. In other words, Trump engaged in criminal conduct designed to cheat the American people. And Republicans are not suggesting he's innocent of those charges. No one has said, "That's not the Trump I know." Instead, they're trying to blunt the political damage to Trump by criticizing anyone who tries to hold Trump accountable for his criminal acts. But no one is above the law, especially a former president.
- **Protecting Trump was a key part of Kevin McCarthy's Corrupt Bargain to Become Speaker.** As part of the corrupt bargain that allowed Kevin McCarthy to become speaker, he promised to give the MAGA extremists all the tools they wanted to insulate Trump from accountability for his criminal acts. They have stopped investigations into his family's financial dealings with foreign governments that have netted Trump's children over \$2 billion in deals, they have sought to intimidate witnesses, and they engage in pathological projection by claiming that the government has been weaponized against the very person who mobilized his supporters to attack the Capitol.
- **The House Republicans Now Push an Agenda Supporting Lawlessness.** As House Republicans continue to ignore the issues they promised Americans during the 2022 midterms they would focus on, they have taken a further leap away from the responsibilities that come with governing by siding with criminals. The MAGA extremists who command Speaker McCarthy's every move have visited insurrectionists, attacked law enforcement, and maneuver to aid lawbreakers. All the while, a significant majority of Americans believe Trump broke the law, with over half thinking he did so intentionally.
- **Investigating District Attorney(s) Who Seek to Uphold the Rule of Law is Just the Latest in a Growing List of Bogus Probes that Even Republicans Are Criticizing.** The sham investigations by Representatives Comer and Jordan have grown increasingly desperate. In fact, their efforts are so underwhelming, that Republican colleagues and commentators are growing increasingly frustrated by the fact that the millions being spent on investigations appear fruitless. As many are saying, it's time for House Republicans to put up or shut up. Unfortunately, it seems Representatives Comer and Jordan will do neither. But the significance underlying their unwillingness to offer up their witnesses and evidence should not be lost. Republicans lack any credible basis for their investigations, otherwise they would be showing, not talking.

This is the fourth in a series of messaging memos from Facts First. We continue to counter the effort to abuse the congressional oversight process for partisan political gain.