

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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July 26, 2023

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

During an Oversight and Accountability Committee hearing last week, Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene publicly displayed multiple nude photographs of Hunter Biden and other persons engaged in sex acts.¹ If Rep. Greene's completely gratuitous and irrelevant display of pornographic images at our televised hearing does not violate the Congressional rules of decorum, then we have no rules of Congressional decorum. This type of display is a violation of House rules, and, as you yourself have recognized, also "counter to a credible investigation."²

Graphic unauthorized pictures of private citizens engaging in intimate sex acts were irrelevant to the putative subject of last Wednesday's hearing which was unsubstantiated claims of improper political influence on federal charging decisions related to Hunter Biden. How did these pictures advance the stated purpose of the hearing? Surely, they did not. The pictures were entirely irrelevant.

These pictures were displayed across America for purely voyeuristic, sensationalistic, and sadistic purposes. Our Committee, which was once chaired by heroes of the public interest like Henry Waxman and Elijah Cummings, is rapidly being reduced to the level of a 1970s-era dime store peep show.

Your failure to halt Rep. Greene's display of pornographic photography during Committee proceedings undermines the integrity of this Committee and the House of Representatives. The official Oversight Committee Twitter account (@GOPoversight) further promoted Rep. Greene's display of pornographic images by retweeting her clip.³ During an

¹ Committee on Oversight and Accountability, *Hearing with IRS Whistleblowers About the Biden Criminal Investigation* (July 19, 2023) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/hearing-with-irs-whistleblowers-about-the-biden-criminal-investigation/>).

² *Inside House Republicans' Plan to Investigate Hunter Biden as a 'National Security Threat'* (Oct. 3, 2022) (<https://time.com/6218879/hunter-biden-investigations-james-comer-house-republicans/>).

³ Oversight Committee Republicans (@GOPoversight) (July 19, 2023) (online at

interview, you had an opportunity to disavow her lewd display, but instead you further undermined the integrity of this Committee by dismissing its significance and expressing only support for her actions.⁴ Just today, when asked about a picture of Rep. Greene’s graphic posters that showed you in the background, you glibly told a *Politico* journalist you “wished that it had been taken from the opposite angle and gotten Glen[n] Grothman in the background instead of me.”⁵

I would like to remind you that under House rules, as Chair of this Committee you have an obligation to enforce the rules of decorum fairly and equitably.⁶ It is incumbent upon you to make clear that Rep. Greene’s use of pornographic images at a public hearing clearly violated House rules and to ensure that we are not subject to repeated incidents or similarly unacceptable actions in future hearings. If this was acceptable for Rep. Greene, you are establishing it as acceptable for all Members.

I therefore urge you to publicly reprimand Rep. Greene by issuing a statement condemning her actions as an affront to the dignity, propriety, and decorum of the Committee. I also ask that you declare that explicit pornographic images of people engaging in sex acts like the ones displayed on Wednesday will not be allowed to be displayed in future Committee proceedings absent clear legislative relevance, prior approval from both the Majority and Minority, and written consent from any individual featured in the exhibit and that you remind all Committee Members of their responsibility to adhere to the rules of decorum and to conduct official business in a manner that is befitting of the United States House of Representatives.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

<https://twitter.com/gopoversight/status/1681753183641583616?s=46>).

⁴ *Fox Business Live*, Fox Business (July 20, 2023) (online at <https://twitter.com/atrupar/status/1682138119070515204?s=20>).

⁵ Olivia Beavers (@Olivia_Beavers) (July 26, 2023) (online at https://twitter.com/Olivia_Beavers/status/1684253669892534272?s=20).

⁶ House rule I, clause 2.