

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

January 16, 2025

Transmitted Electronically

Dear Ms. Bondi:

On December 1, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. issued a written statement announcing “A Full and Unconditional Pardon” for his son, Robert Hunter Biden (Hunter Biden).¹ President Biden has faced bipartisan disdain² for absolving his son of nearly eleven years of *any* offenses he “committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 1, 2014 through December 1, 2024.”³ The breadth of this pardon is unprecedented⁴ but not altogether surprising: The pardon’s protections align with (and, indeed, map to) the findings of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability’s investigation conducted throughout the 118th Congress regarding President Biden’s corruption and participation in his family’s international influence peddling schemes.⁵

President Biden’s latest scheme to cover his family’s grift cements his legacy as leading the most corrupt political family to attain the presidency in American history. But it also appears incomplete. President Biden has displayed to the American people that his son is beyond accountability in a court of law for his crimes. However, I write to remind incoming Department of Justice (Department) leadership of Hunter Biden’s main accomplice in his influence peddling schemes (aside from Joe Biden himself), whom the House Committees on Oversight, the Judiciary, and Ways and Means (the Committees) previously identified to Attorney General Merrick Garland as having misled Congress regarding Joe Biden’s participation in his family’s influence peddling and deserving of prosecution under federal law: James Biden, the President’s younger brother.

¹ Press Release, The White House, Statement from President Joe Biden (Dec. 1, 2024) [hereinafter “Statement from President Joe Biden”].

² Emily Brooks, *Multiple Democrats slam Biden pardon of Hunter*, The Hill (Dec. 2, 2024); Shia Kapos, *Republicans say Biden is a ‘liar’ after he pardons Hunter, his son*, Politico (Dec. 1, 2024).

³ Statement from President Joe Biden, *supra* note 1.

⁴ Bart Jansen and Joey Garrison, *Hunter Biden pardon ‘unprecedented’ and ‘very unusual,’ experts say*, USA Today (Dec. 2, 2024) (Former U.S. pardon attorney Margaret Love has stated that President Biden’s pardon is “very broad” and largely “unprecedented,” stating “[i]t does not pardon specific offenses, but rather takes a rather broad time span and pardons anything, any crime that may have been committed during that time span.”).

⁵ Majority Staff of H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, H. Comm. on the Judiciary, & H. Comm. on Ways & Means, 118th Cong., Report on the Impeachment Inquiry of Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States of America (Aug. 19, 2024) [hereinafter “Impeachment Inquiry Report”].

Throughout the 118th Congress, the Committees investigated the President's role in and knowledge of his family's international influence peddling schemes that have generated over \$18 million for Biden family members and their related companies, and over \$27 million when including the payments to their business associates, who often were used to transfer funds to Biden family members.⁶ This figure does not include an additional \$8 million in loans given to Hunter Biden and James Biden—most of which has likely not been repaid.⁷ In total, since 2014, the Committees accounted for over \$35 million received by Biden family members, their companies, and business associates, which includes financial transactions described as loans.⁸ Despite much effort, the Committees have not identified legitimate services warranting such lucrative payments. The fact that the timeframe covered by President Biden's sweeping pardon of his son aligns with this corrupt influence peddling scheme underscores that the entirety of President Biden and his family's corruption was not captured by the limited criminal charges brought by the Department under Attorney General Garland's leadership.

The Committees interviewed multiple witnesses regarding President Biden's knowledge of and involvement in his family's business dealings, including Biden family associates and Biden family members themselves, namely Hunter Biden and James Biden. On February 21, 2024, the Oversight Committee and the Judiciary Committee conducted a transcribed interview of James Biden, who was accompanied by counsel.⁹ On February 28, 2024, the Oversight Committee and the Judiciary Committee conducted a deposition of Hunter Biden, who testified under oath and was accompanied by counsel.¹⁰ On June 5, 2024, the Committees made criminal referrals of Hunter Biden and James Biden to the Department of Justice pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (false statements), and, additionally, for Hunter Biden under 18 U.S.C. § 1621 (perjury). To date, Attorney General Garland has ignored the Committees' referral. As the referral demonstrates, Hunter Biden and James Biden made provably false statements to the Oversight Committee and the Judiciary Committee about key aspects of the impeachment inquiry, in what appears to be a conscious effort to hinder the investigation's focus on President Biden. Although President Biden's pardon encompasses all crimes committed by Hunter Biden during the timeframe investigated by the Committee (including the crime of perjury before Congress), Attorney General Garland—or his successor—may, and should, determine prosecution of James Biden for violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 is appropriate.

James Biden made materially false statements to the Oversight and Judiciary Committees. The nature of both his and Hunter Biden's false statements is not lost on the Committees: every instance implicates Joe Biden's knowledge of and role in his family's influence peddling. James Biden's denial of Joe Biden's meeting with James Biden, Hunter Biden, and Hunter Biden's business associate for a Chinese transaction, Tony Bobulinski—despite evidence being placed in front of him and being given multiple opportunities to amend

⁶ See generally attached Criminal Referral.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Transcribed Interview of James Brian Biden, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability & H. Comm. on the Judiciary, at 4-8 (Feb. 21, 2024).

¹⁰ Deposition of Robert Hunter Biden, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability & H. Comm. on the Judiciary, at 5-6, 10, 16 (Feb. 28, 2024).

The Honorable Pamela Bondi

January 16, 2025

Page 3 of 3

his response—appears to be a clumsy attempt to protect Joe Biden from the reality that Joe Biden has indeed met with his family’s business associates.

President Biden’s obstruction of the Committees’ impeachment inquiry is itself impeachable conduct.¹¹ The legacy President Biden leaves behind is having led the most dishonest and corrupt administration in American history. President Biden repeatedly told—or used White House personnel to tell—the American people he would not pardon his son.¹² That was a lie. President Biden continues to lie, now falsely claiming “[n]o reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter’s cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son – and that is wrong.”¹³ In fact, a unanimous jury of Hunter Biden’s peers in Delaware found him guilty on all counts,¹⁴ and in California Hunter Biden pled guilty to felony charges.¹⁵ Though President Biden’s saccharine (and wholly ironic) rantings of political persecution and weaponized prosecution of Hunter Biden are specious, they are inapplicable to the non-prosecution of his brother, James Biden, who has lied to the United States Congress and has faced no accountability to date. I write to encourage the Department under your leadership to hold James Biden accountable for lying to Congress to protect his brother, the soon-to-be-former President Biden. No one *should* be above the law, regardless of his last name.

Sincerely,



James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

cc: The Honorable Gerald Connolly, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

¹¹ See generally Impeachment Inquiry Report, *supra* note 5.

¹² Ryan King, *All the times Joe Biden and the White House said he wouldn’t pardon Hunter*, N.Y. Post (Dec. 2, 2024).

¹³ Statement from President Joe Biden, *supra* note 1.

¹⁴ Betsy Woodruff Swan & Josh Gerstein, *Hunter Biden found guilty on federal gun charges*, Politico (June 11, 2024).

¹⁵ Erica Brown & Caitlin Yilek, *Hunter Biden pleads guilty to all 9 charges in tax evasion case before trial in Los Angeles*, CBS News (Sept. 5, 2024).