

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

October 3, 2024

Stefanie Feldman
Director
White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Feldman:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Committee) is conducting oversight into your office's potential collusion with the plaintiff in the pending litigation *City of Chicago v. Glock Inc., et al.*¹ Plaintiff's counsel has publicly shared details of a private meeting that your office had with Glock, Inc., the defendant in the lawsuit, which raises serious concerns about whether you or your staff abused the authority of your office and committed ethical violations by colluding with outside parties to initiate a lawsuit against a politically disfavored private entity.

In September 2023, President Biden established the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which is overseen by Vice President Harris.² A fact sheet on the White House website states that Rob Wilcox is the Deputy Director of the office.³ According to his LinkedIn profile, for the nearly 8 years prior to joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Mr. Wilcox served in several advocacy positions for Everytown for Gun Safety.⁴

The Committee has learned that on December 20, 2023, the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention met privately with representatives from Glock, during which the Administration requested that Glock change their pistol designs so that it would be harder to illegally modify Glock pistols to shoot continuously with a single trigger pull. On March 19, 2024, the City of Chicago filed suit in state court against Glock. Everytown Law, the litigation arm of Everytown for Gun Safety, is listed as counsel for the plaintiff. The day the suit was filed, John Feinblatt, President of Everytown for Gun Safety, posted on his X account "Today Everytown Law + the City of Chicago announced a historic lawsuit against Glock Inc. to hold them accountable for the unconscionable decision to continue selling its easily modified pistols

¹ *City of Chicago v. Glock, Inc., et al.*, No. 2024CH06875 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Cook Cnty.) filed July 22, 2024.

² Press Release, The White House, President Joe Biden to Establish First-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, to be Overseen by Vice President Kamala Harris (Sept. 21, 2023).

³ The White House, *Office of Gun Violence Prevention* (last viewed Sept. 13, 2024).

⁴ LinkedIn Profile, Rob Wilcox (last accessed September 17, 2024).

ever though it could fix the problem.”⁵ Later in the post, Mr. Feinblatt said “[f]ederal Officials recently contacted Glock to discuss implementing new ways to modify Glock pistols to make it harder for Glock switches to be installed. Rather than help, Glock falsely insisted there is nothing they can do.”⁶ Because the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention’s meeting with Glock was private, Mr. Feinblatt appears to have had insider information regarding your office’s meeting with Glock, which raises questions about whether your office colluded with Everytown for Gun Safety to initiate their lawsuit against Glock.

To investigate this concern, on June 14, 2024, the Committee requested that you produce “[a]ll documents and communications between any individual at the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Everytown for Gun Safety, and Everytown Law related to ‘auto-sear(s)’, ‘Glock switches’, ‘machinegun conversion device (‘MCD’), and ‘Chicago litigation’” and “[a]ll documents and communications between Deputy Director of the White House Office for Gun Violence Prevention Rob Wilcox and Everytown for Gun Safety President John Feinblatt”.⁷ The Committee requested your compliance by June 28, 2024.⁸

When the Committee did not receive a response by that date, it contacted your office on July 1, inquiring as to when you would respond to their requests.⁹ Later that day, the Committee received a letter from Deputy Counsel to the President Rachel F. Cotton.¹⁰ Ms. Cotton did not even reference the Committee’s request for documents; instead, she impugned the motives of the Committee, stating “[t]he House Majority . . . [is] doing the gun lobby’s bidding by launching a baseless political attack on the Biden Administration under the guise of an ‘investigation.’”¹¹

Having received no documents responsive to the Committee’s initial request, on July 19, 2024, the Committee sent you a follow-up letter reiterating its request and urging “the White House to comply voluntarily.”¹² On August 2, the Committee received another response from Ms. Cotton.¹³ In her letter, Ms. Cotton denied that the White House “collaborat[ed]” with “third

⁵ John Feinblatt (@JohnFeinblatt), X, (March 19, 2024, 2:21 PM) *available at* <https://twitter.com/JohnFeinblatt/status/1770153622237851709>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Letter from James Comer, Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Accountability, to Stefanie Feldman, Director, White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, at 2 (June 14, 2024).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ E-mail from Committee Staff to White House staff (July 1, 2024), *on file with Committee staff*.

¹⁰ Letter from Rachel F. Cotton, White House Counsel’s Office, to James Comer, Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Accountability (July 1, 2024).

¹¹ *Id.* at 2.

¹² Letter from James Comer, Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Accountability to Stefanie Feldman, Director, White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, at 1 (July 19, 2024).

¹³ Letter from Rachel F. Cotton, White House Counsel’s Office, to James Comer, Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Aug. 2, 2024).

parties” in the *Glock* litigation and asserted that the Committee’s document requests were “unfounded.”¹⁴

Unfortunately, based on Ms. Cotton’s responses, it appears that the White House is determined to obstruct the Committee’s investigation and has no intention of producing any responsive documents. Indeed, you have failed to produce any documents responsive to the Committee’s requests. Given your refusal to comply with the Committee’s requests, please find the attached subpoena, which is being issued pursuant to the authority delegated to the Chairman of the Committee under Rule XI, clause 2(m)(1)(B) of the Rules of the House of Representatives and Rule 12(g) of the Committee’s Rules.

The Committee has oversight jurisdiction and “may at any time conduct investigations of any matter” notwithstanding concurrent jurisdiction maintained by another standing committee under House Rule X. In addition to determining whether your office colluded with ideologically aligned outside groups to initiate lawfare against a politically disfavored private company, the records sought will inform the Committee as to whether legislation is necessary—and if so how to craft such legislation—to prevent conflicts of interest by federal officials related to their prior employers. Among the types of legislation being considered are provisions designed to ensure conflicts are adequately disclosed, and that prior employers are not receiving improper favors or leaks of information obtained by federal officials using their office or authorities over regulated third parties. The requested records will also assist the Committee in determining whether legislation is necessary to rein in abuses of power, such as when federal officials use their offices to obtain information or cooperation from regulated third parties that is then improperly leaked for the benefit of groups or individuals that are politically aligned with the White House. The records and information sought will also inform the Committee as to the specific methods and techniques used by individuals to shield their improper activities from scrutiny, thereby informing the means by which legislation could target and prevent those activities in the future.

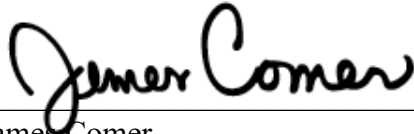
Finally, to the extent that public officials are attempting to mask their improper activities from congressional or public scrutiny by evading federal recordkeeping requirements, the records sought by the investigation will assist the Committee in determining if legislation is necessary related to federal recordkeeping. This is especially the case when federal officials use non-government communication devices to conduct business related to their official duties with the goal of shielding their actions from being memorialized in federal records.

As Chairman of the Committee, I urge you to cooperate speedily and in good faith with this subpoena. If you have any questions regarding this subpoena, please coordinate with Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 2.

Director Feldman
October 3, 2024
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C".

James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability