

Senator Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
Written Questions for Sara Bailey
Nominee to be Director of National Drug Control Policy
September 24, 2025

1. Past Directors of ONDCP have had backgrounds in public health, medicine, and law enforcement.

- a. Are you a medical professional?

ANSWER: No.

- b. Have you ever served as a prosecutor or law-enforcement official?

ANSWER: No.

- c. Have you ever worked for a federal or state government public health agency?

ANSWER: No.

2. At your hearing, you said that shutting down the border has stopped weapons from being trafficked south across the border during the Trump Administration. What evidence do you have to back up this statement?

ANSWER: In calendar year 2024 under the Biden Administration, CBP seized 811 weapons at the southwest board being transported from the United States to Mexico. Contrast that with since February 2025, CBP has seized 298 weapons being transported from the United States to Mexico.

3. Your website, SaraACarter.com, is no longer accessible to the public. Online records appear to show that sometime between June 21 and July 19 of this year, the site stopped allowing viewers to see articles you authored.

- a. Did you or your staff take your website offline or limit viewing to the public? If so, why?

ANSWER: Given the nomination, I had to divest from my company DarkWire, Inc, doing business as SAC, which included SaraACarter.com.

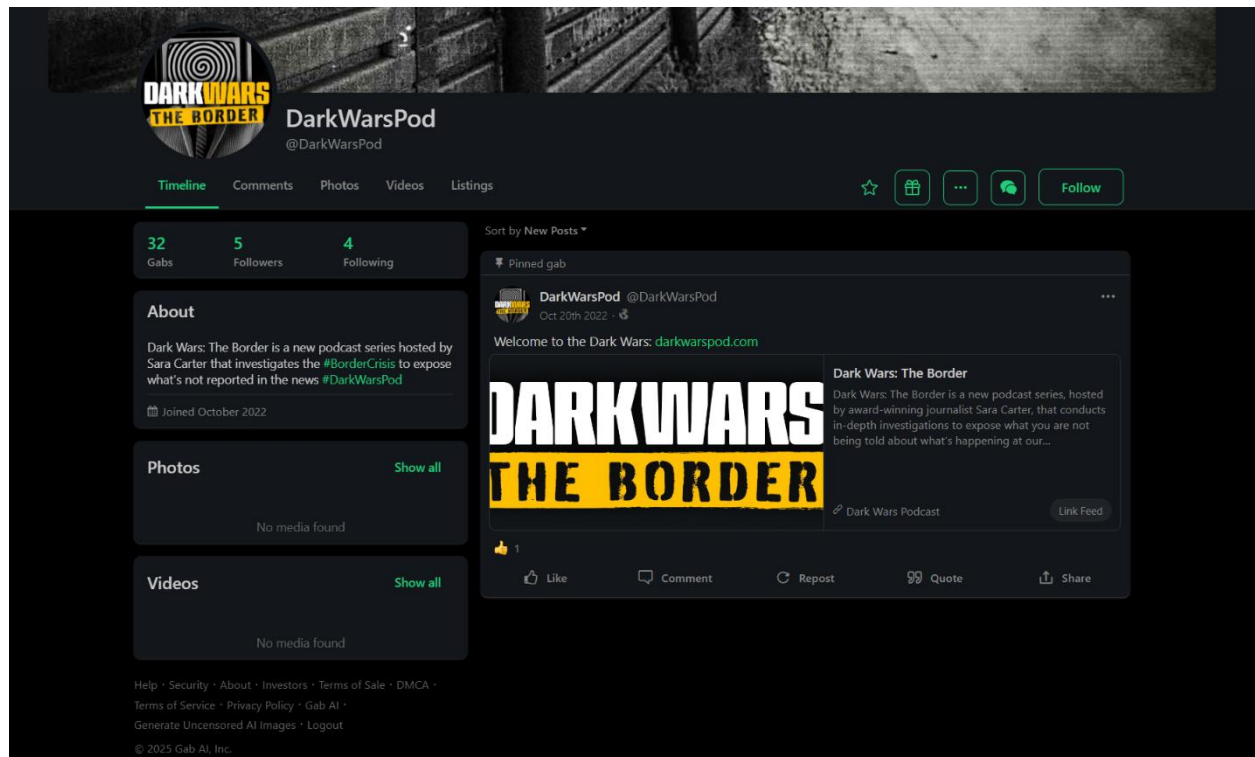
- b. Will you commit to making the website public so that members of this Committee can ensure a full and comprehensive review of your record and verify whether any disclosures were omitted?

ANSWER: The website is still accessible but no longer active given that I had to divest from my company to comply with the ethical requirements of the nomination.

4. Gab is social media platform which *The New York Times* described as a “a haven for white nationalists, neo-Nazis and other extremists.” Gab’s verified X account has stated that it aims to eliminate our current “Judeo-Bolshevik” society. Gab’s CEO, Andrew

Torba, is an outspoken antisemite who has argued that “Zionists” are responsible for the “subversion of American Christianity.”

Your podcast, “Dark Wars: The Border,” has a Gab page with 32 posts.



- a. Does the Gab account depicted in the above photo belong to you?
ANSWER: I was unaware that a Gab account had been created to promote my podcast prior to now. In trying to respond to this question I learned that the Gab account was created by a former associate who was responsible for marketing.
- b. Has this account been run by you or any of your current or former associates or business partners?
ANSWER: Please see my response to question 4a.
- c. Did you personally create this account or instruct anyone to create it?
ANSWER: Please see my response to question 4a.
- d. Have you ever posted on this account?
ANSWER: Please see my response to question 4a.
- e. Do you have a personal Gab account?
ANSWER: No.

A 2018 article in *The Wall Street Journal* labels the social media website Gab “a home to anti-Semitic and other extremist speech.” The Anti-Defamation League called Gab a

“haven for hate and disinformation.” Gab CEO Andrew Torba said in 2022, “The Jews in positions of power do not care that you have the freedom of speech in this country, they care that people like [Kan]Ye have the freedom to reach a lot of people and criticize their power and oversized influence in our culture, government, and society.”

- f. Do you dispute that Gab serves as a haven for white nationalists and antisemites? If so, why?

ANSWER: I do not have any information on Gab other than what you provided here. Therefore, I cannot confirm or dispute that Gab serves as a haven for white nationalist or anti-Semites.

- g. Do you condemn Andrew Torba’s comments that are quoted above? Are these comments antisemitic?

ANSWER: I condemn all forms of anti-Semitism.

- h. Do you currently follow any Gab accounts that have promoted Holocaust denialism?

ANSWER: No.

- i. Why would you or your current or former associates choose to publicize your podcast on a platform that serves as a “haven” for white nationalists and neo-Nazis?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 4a.

5. Since taking office, President Trump has undertaken massive funding and personnel cuts to public health agencies, hurting Americans dealing with drugs, addiction, and mental health issues.

- a. If confirmed, do you plan to continue ONDCP’s partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)? Please explain the importance of that partnership in combatting drug abuse.

ANSWER: ONDCP maintains strong partnership with SAMHSA and other HHS and federal agencies. The funding cuts have not affected this partnership.

- b. Please explain the importance of providing mental health resources to those struggling with addiction.

ANSWER: According to the most recent National Survey of Drug Use and Health, last year, 20.4 million adults in the United States had both some form of mental illness and a substance use disorder, with the highest percentage being young adults aged 18-25. Moreover, it is estimated that approximately 50% of people with a substance use disorder have a co-occurring mental health disorder. Addressing this overlap requires caring for the entire person, and not just treating an individual disease.

- c. The Trump Administration has fired thousands of staffers from the Department of Health and Human Services, including many from SAMHSA. Do you believe

reducing the staffing at SAMHSA has helped the U.S. fight the substance abuse crisis?

ANSWER: President Trump is focused on making the government more efficient and reducing waste, fraud, abuse and excess bureaucracy. I believe a more efficient government will help the U.S. fight substance abuse.

- d. The Trump Administration's terminations have also targeted suicide and mental health crisis hotlines. Will you fight to restore full funding and staffing to these critical programs?

ANSWER: I support the President's budgetary decisions while recognizing the importance of suicide prevention and mental health resources.

- e. Please describe the importance of strong data collection efforts to fully understanding the scope and severity of the country's drug abuse problems.

ANSWER: Data is critical to directing smart and effective drug policies and ensuring resources are applied to where they will do the most good. Innovating in data and research is a key part of the President's drug control policy priorities.

- f. Do you support the Trump Administration's firing of every single staffer responsible for organizing the National Survey on Drug Use and Health?

ANSWER: I am not aware of the circumstances surrounding the specific personnel decision mentioned in the question and defer to the Department of Health and Human Services.

- 6. On an episode of your podcast, "The Sara Carter Show," you stated that you supported the legalization of medical marijuana. Specifically, you said, "cannabis for medicinal purposes and medical reasons is a fantastic way" of managing cancer, other illnesses, and related side effects.

- a. If confirmed as ONDCP Director, will you work to legalize medical marijuana on the federal level?

ANSWER: If confirmed as Director, I will comply with all federal laws and fulfill all statutory responsibilities of the ONDCP. I will also work with the interagency to ensure an examination of all facts and evidence as part of any scheduling or policy actions.

- b. You previously highlighted a quote by then-Rep. Matt Gaetz that "we have seen a generation, particularly of Black and Brown youth, locked up for offenses that should've not resulted in any incarceration whatsoever." Do you agree that people of color have been disproportionately harmed by drug prosecutions?

ANSWER: I believe that all communities have suffered as a result of illicit narcotics with data showing that certain drugs are more prevalent in some communities.

- c. What actions do you believe our government should take to address the past wrongs Rep. Gaetz highlighted?

ANSWER: If confirmed, I will commit to ensuring effective, timely, evidence-based treatment is available to all Americans. At the same time, through collaboration with the Department of Justice, I will support U.S. Attorneys to hold all drug traffickers accountable.

7. On numerous occasions, you have praised the self-described dictator of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele. President Bukele runs CECOT, a maximum-security prison in El Salvador notorious for human rights abuses.

- a. You previously stated that Senator Tim Kaine and then-Senator Ben Cardin “can only dream of having the same type of popular support President Bukele has among his people.” Do you stand by this statement?

ANSWER: I believe polling data shows that President Bukele is more popular among his people than some U.S. politicians.

Prisoners sent from the United States to CECOT in El Salvador were found to have little to no meaningful contact with legal counsel or family members. According to human rights groups, prisoners at CECOT suffered “systematic physical beatings, torture, intentional denial of access to food, water, clothing, health care,” and more injustices.

- b. Do you support prisoners having access to legal counsel?

ANSWER: I support the Constitution of the United States and the rights afforded by it to its citizens which include the right to legal counsel.

- c. Do you support congressional oversight of prisoners in federal custody?

ANSWER: I support the Constitution of the United State and the U.S. Congress’ oversight role.

You previously tweeted that “El Salvador under @NayibBukele is a reflection of what can be for all of us if we fight against corruption and evil.” In 2022, President Bukele declared a state of emergency that suspended freedom of assembly, the right to privacy in one’s communications, and the right for individuals to be told they are being arrested.

- d. Do you regret your support for a leader who has routinely violated the civil rights and liberties of his own people?

ANSWER: My tweet was referring to the fight against corruption, gangs, and drug cartels. Several years ago, El Salvador was listed as one of the most dangerous and corrupt countries in the world. This was directly impacting America as many of El Salvador’s gang and drug problems were spilling over to the U.S. My focus is on the safety and well being of America.

- e. President Bukele has also reportedly jailed thousands of innocent people. Is this an approach to fighting “corruption and evil” that you endorse?

ANSWER: I have never expressed support for jailing innocent people.

8. In February of 2025, you posted a picture with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, praising him for “keep[ing] the EU in check” and stating that there is a “bright future ahead” for him.
- a. What did you mean when praised Prime Minister Orban for keeping the European Union in check?
ANSWER: I was referencing PM Orban’s commitment to put his country ahead of the EU’s interest.
- b. Prime Minister Orban has referred to the country under his leadership as an “illiberal democracy” with weaker checks and balances and has targeted the free press and weakened the independence of the judiciary. Do you support these actions?
ANSWER: I believe in the free press and support the Constitution of the United States.
9. Have you ever promoted claims questioning how Joe Biden won the 2020 election and implying that he engaged in fraud to do so?
ANSWER: Like many Americans, I had concerns about certain irregularities with the 2020 election.
10. Have you ever suggested that Democrats “need [censorship] to even have a chance” to win in the 2022 election?
ANSWER: I have no recollection of the statement, but like most Americans, I was generally concerned with the amount of censorship that conservatives were experiencing during that time period.
11. You reposted Trump advisor Stephen Miller’s claims that, “The Democrat Party at every level — judges, politicians, academics, nonprofits — is organized around the defense and protection of the criminal, the monstrous and the depraved. The more vile the threat, the more vociferously the Democrat Party works to protect and enable it.” You claimed these were “facts.”
Do you stand by this assessment?
ANSWER: Mr. Miller’s tweet was in reference to the murder of a young Ukrainian refugee on a train in North Carolina at the hands of a violent repeat offender with over 14 prior arrests. The shocking video of this violent attack was widely distributed and Americans rightly questioned why this violent offender was released.
12. Do you support the rescheduling of marijuana?
ANSWER: If confirmed as Director, I will comply with all federal laws and fulfil all statutory responsibilities of the ONDCP. I will also work with the interagency to ensure an examination of all facts and evidence as part of any scheduling or policy actions.
13. Please see below for a post from your “Dark Wars” podcast’s account.



- a. Do you run this account, and are you the author of the tweet in question?
ANSWER: This account is run by my prior business. I have access to it but I am not the only person with access. I do not recall if I authored this tweet.
- b. If not you, who authored this tweet?
ANSWER: Please see my response to question 13a.
- c. Do you stand behind the message of this tweet?
ANSWER: Regardless of authorship, I view this tweet as an attempt to highlight how inappropriate it was for Members of Congress to be holding up paddles during the President's address.

14. In a conversation hosted by the Federalist Society, you called for the Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee to impeach "radical leftist judges."

- a. Can a judge be impeached simply for ruling against the president?
ANSWER: I am not an attorney, however, it is my understanding that judges can be impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors.
- b. According to a study by Stanford University Professor Adam Bonica, President Trump has lost in 72 percent of cases before Republican-appointed judges. Should these judges be impeached?
ANSWER: Please see my response to question 14a.

15. During his 2025 State of the Union address, President Trump claimed that his administration had canceled funding for research to make mice transgender. You tweeted your confusion and outrage about that funding, posting “\$8 million for making mice transgender ? WTF.” Reporting has now confirmed that the funding in question served to evaluate the impacts of hormones on breast cancer risks, asthma, and vaccines.

- a. If confirmed as Director of National Drug Control Policy, your office’s decision making would benefit from scientific studies. How will you ensure that you base your decisions on facts and data, rather than sensationalist headlines?

ANSWER: If confirmed, I plan to consult with a wide array of experts in the field and review all applicable data to ensure that my decisions and recommendations are supported by facts.

- b. Do you regret spreading misinformation and mischaracterizing serious public health research?

ANSWER: I reject the premise of your question. President Trump has put a stop to wasteful spending and ended funding for studies that had little to no scientific value. He has saved the American taxpayer billions of dollars.

16. You expressed outrage following President Biden’s grant of clemency to a drug trafficker who later ended up reoffending and going back to jail.

- a. Do you denounce all pardons of individuals who re-offend?

ANSWER: I was denouncing the pardon of a repeat offender whose prior criminal history and the type of crime committed showed a high likelihood of reoffending.

- b. Several individuals pardoned by President Trump have committed serious crimes after their pardons. Do you denounce President Trump’s pardon of Jonathan Braun, who was pardoned for drug trafficking but now faces another five years in prison because he violated the terms of his release?

ANSWER: The Constitution vests the pardon authority solely on the President of the United States. As a current government employee, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the President’s pardon decisions.

- c. President Trump pardoned Ross Ulbricht, founder of the anonymous online drug marketplace Silk Road. Ross, who was convicted of distributing narcotics and related money laundering, ran a website that helped facilitate hundreds of millions of dollars of illicit drug transactions. Did this pardon make the country safer?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 16b.

- d. The Trump Justice Department has argued that a pardon of a January 6 defendant extends to evidence of his drug trafficking. Do you agree with this argument?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 16b.

17. You previously attacked then-Senate Leader McConnell, arguing that “Mitch McConnell and the gang are just going to sit back and do mothering as our nation faces one of the most significant crisis [sic] in modern Political history...It’s shameful our leadership is out to lunch. Or maybe their inaction is exposing exactly how they feel about President Trump.”

Do you stand by your criticism of Senator McConnell?

ANSWER: I do not recall when this statement was made or the context behind it. Like most Americans I sometimes express frustration with the pace of Congress.

18. In 2023, you claimed that “Republican lawmakers appear to care more about themselves and fighting over power than the American people.”

Do you stand by this statement?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 17.

19. Have you ever attacked Republican members of Congress as “sell-outs” who deserve a primary challenge?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 17.

20. According to a bipartisan report from the House Ethics Committee, there was “substantial evidence” that former Rep. Matt Gaetz had broken both internal rules and laws along with “other standards of conduct prohibiting prostitution, statutory rape, illicit drug use, acceptance of impermissible gifts, the provision of special favors and privileges, and obstruction of Congress.” In 2020, you hosted him on an episode of “The Sara Carter Show.”

- a. Why did you claim that the investigations of former Rep. Matt Gaetz were politically motivated, and that people were going after him because he was “over the target”?

ANSWER: Like many Americans, I was concerned with the weaponization of law enforcement agencies during the Biden Administration. The House Ethics Committee report you reference was released earlier this year while the podcast in question took place in 2020.

- b. Do you accept the findings of the House Ethics Committee report?

ANSWER: I have not read the Committee’s report.

21. According to reports, you were generally prohibited from appearing on news shows on *Fox News* and instead were limited to the entertainment and opinion side of the network.

- a. Did anyone at *Fox News* ever communicate this to you directly? If so, what did they say?

ANSWER: This is false as evidenced by my continued contract renewals.

- b. Please estimate what percentage of your appearances on *Fox News* were on news shows, rather than opinion or entertainment shows.

ANSWER: The majority of my time on Fox News was spent reporting news.

Sean Hannity was reportedly told not to refer to you as an “investigative journalist” because your reporting was not vetted or verified to meet the network’s editorial standards.

- c. Was this communicated to you by Mr. Hannity or anyone else at *Fox News*?

ANSWER: This is false and Sean Hannity was never told to do that - this false story came out when I was aggressively covering the Russia hoax as an attempt to discredit my investigations. As we have seen, my reporting on the Russia hoax was proven correct.

A *Fox News* staffer stated that, “on the news side, we don’t take really anything Carter ‘reports’ seriously.”

- d. Were you aware of the concerns that some at *Fox News* held over the reliability and independence of your reporting?

ANSWER: No.

22. Have you ever published someone else’s reporting or writing without attribution on your website?

ANSWER: Not to my knowledge and I have never been sued for plagiarism.

23. Have you ever published someone else’s reporting or writing without attribution on the websites of any of your employers, including *Fox News* and *The Washington Examiner*?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 22.

24. Have you ever been asked to give a public or private apology for errors in your reporting?

ANSWER: No.

25. Please describe the role that cryptocurrency plays in allowing drug traffickers and cartels to sell their illicit narcotics and launder the proceeds and provide your thoughts on how to crack down on this practice.

ANSWER: Cryptocurrency is being used by TCOs to move money quickly and secretly, especially on the DarkWeb which deals primarily in cryptocurrency. Cartels use cryptocurrency to hide the money’s trail and avoid traditional banking.

If confirmed, I will work with the interagency to target and dismantle the financial networks that support drug traffickers. Our strategy will recognize that every drug interdiction has a corresponding financial transaction and require that seizures be exploited to generate financial intelligence. We will also continue to levy and enforce sanctions against these criminal networks – up and down the drug supply chain.

26. You previously stated that the “FBI’s surveillance tool [was] misused on Jan. 6 suspects.”

- a. What did you mean by this?

ANSWER: Like many Americans, I was concerned that the FBI and Justice Department’s resources were being diverted to arrest non-violent individuals who were then being excessively charged and sentenced to long prison sentences for non-violent crimes.

- b. Do you stand by your previous calls to “defund the bureau”?

ANSWER: No, under Director Patel and Attorney General Bondi’s leadership the FBI is returning to its core mission of going after criminals.

27. On January 5, 2021, you stated that “the pressure is now on @VP Mike Pence.”

- a. What did you mean by this?

ANSWER: Like many Americans, I had concerns about certain irregularities with the 2020 election.

28. You tweeted after the 2020 election: “Trump’s attorneys battle for ‘legitimate votes’ as concern mounts over Dominion Voting Systems & Smartmatic...Based on the affidavits given to [Trump election lawyer Sidney] Powell and concern over the election system’s integrity there needs [sic] to be investigations.”

- a. Your former employer *Fox News* was sued by Dominion Voting Systems and paid a \$787 million settlement over defamation regarding their election machines. Do you still have concerns about Dominion and Smartmatic’s voting machines?

ANSWER: Like many Americans, I had concerns about certain irregularities with the 2020 election.

- b. Do you still believe that the election was not decided by legitimate votes?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 28a.

29. You are a featured curator for the Madison Media Fund, a financial supporter and promoter of “freedom focused filmmakers.” Films supported by the fund include *The Eastman Dilemma: Lawfare of Justice* (which premiered on January 6, 2025, at Mar-a-Lago), and fellow curators include Candace Owens, Tucker Carlson, and *In Defense of Internment* author Michelle Malkin.

- a. Please describe how you were selected as a curator and your responsibilities in the role.

ANSWER: I was unaware that I had been selected as a curator. According to their own website, they state, “We included Sara Carter as a Madison Media Fund curator because of her established presence...” I was not involved or aware of that decision and I had no role or responsibilities with this organization.

- b. Do you currently receive or have you in the past received any compensation from the Fund?

ANSWER: No.

30. In 2024, you sat on the board of directors of Border911, an anti-immigration nonprofit. The founder of the group is Tom Homan, who now serves as President Trump’s “border czar.”

- a. Describe your role and responsibilities during your time with Border911.

ANSWER: I was not on the board of director I was a speaker for Border911

- b. Were you involved in the group's fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago, which featured Donald Trump?

ANSWER: Yes.

- c. Legal experts argued that the organization was breaking the law by explicitly supporting a political figure, Donald Trump, despite nonprofits being prohibited from doing so. Were you aware that the organization may have been violating federal law?

ANSWER: No federal laws were violated.

31. Please see your prior post below:



- a. What did you understand it to mean that your article “got Q’d”?

ANSWER: I do not know what it means to be “Q’d”.

- b. Why did you retweet this post?

ANSWER: I retweeted a reply to my tweet because it said “great job”.

The slogan WWG1WGA, which stands for “where we go one, we go all” is used by the QAnon conspiracy theory community. This community believes that the government is controlled by a cabal of Jewish, Satan-worshipping pedophiles and cannibals who are working to undermine President Trump.

- c. Have you ever considered yourself to be a part of the QAnon community?

ANSWER: No.

- d. Do you denounce the QAnon conspiracy theory?

- i. If yes, then why did you retweet a QAnon hashtag?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 31b.

- ii. If not, why not?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 31b.

32. Is there currently a presidentially appointed Deputy Director for the Office of National Drug Control Policy?

ANSWER: No.

- a. If not: Given your lack of law enforcement, public health, or medical experience, will you commit, if confirmed, to ensuring the appointment of someone with experience in those fields?

ANSWER: It would be inappropriate for me to comment on specific hiring decisions. However, I am committed to hiring the qualified individuals.

33. On an episode of your podcast featuring Rudy Giuliani, you stated that you were in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021.

- a. Did you attend President Trump's speech on the Ellipse?

ANSWER: No.

- b. Were you on Capitol grounds that day?

ANSWER: No.

- c. Were you the Capitol or any buildings in the Capitol complex that day?

ANSWER: No.

Question for the Record from Senator Tills to Sara Carter, Nominee for Director of the National Office of Drug Control Policy

1. In recent years, telemedicine prescribing flexibilities have been implemented and extended to increase access to care for patients. Telehealth is now a critical point for care, including for patients who may be prescribed controlled substances as part of their care plan. If confirmed as Director of the ONDCP, how would you look to balance the need for patient access to treatment via telehealth while also leveraging existing infrastructure and technology to help ensure that controlled substances prescribed via telehealth are not misused or diverted, for example, through the use of interstate prescription drug monitoring queries?

ANSWER: The telehealth flexibilities that began under President Trump's first Administration extended lifesaving treatment to many Americans who could not otherwise access it. Americans in rural areas continue to face those same difficulties in accessing treatment, and I will work to expand responsible telehealth practices that include safe prescribing practices such as prescription drug monitoring systems utilization, and safe prescribing and dispensing practices.

Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing
“Nominations”
Wednesday, September 17, 2025
Questions for the Record for Sara Bailey

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR BLACKBURN

1. ONDCP is responsible for anti-doping efforts in sport and has specific jurisdiction over the payment of United States dues to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Over a year ago, WADA betrayed its mission by allowing twenty-three Chinese swimmers to unfairly beat American swimmers even though it knew that they were doping. When the United States opened an investigation into this incident, WADA did not cooperate. Instead, it stonewalled and attempted to intimidate and strongarm the United States. The United States rightfully withheld its 2024 dues to WADA because WADA failed to protect American athletes and have never implemented meaningful governance reforms.

- a. As ONDCP Director, will you take a strong stance against WADA and any other organization that attempts to intimidate the United States and fail to protect Americans?

ANSWER: Yes, if confirmed, I will be a strong advocate for fair competition and clean sports on behalf of American athletes, especially against the failed practices of WADA.

- b. Will you commit to withholding U.S. dues to WADA if they continue to cover up credible doping allegations and fail to implement meaningful governance reforms?

ANSWER: Yes, if confirmed, I commit to leveraging any tools available to hold WADA accountable to our athletes.

2. In recent years, telemedicine has expanded, increasing access to care and prescriptions for patients. Telehealth is now a critical point for care, including for patients who may be prescribed controlled substances as part of their care plan. If confirmed as ONDCP Director, how would you balance the need for patient access to telehealth and the need to ensure that patients do not misuse or divert controlled substances prescribed via telehealth, for example, using interstate prescription drug monitoring queries?

ANSWER: The telehealth flexibilities that began under President Trump’s first Administration extended lifesaving treatment to many Americans who could not otherwise access it. Americans in rural areas continue to face those same difficulties in accessing treatment, and I will work to expand responsible telehealth practices that include safe prescribing practices such as prescription drug monitoring systems utilization, and safe prescribing and dispensing practices.

**Nomination of Sara Carter Bailey
To be Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy
Questions for the Record
Submitted September 24, 2025**

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR WHITEHOUSE

Please answer each question and sub-question individually and as specifically as possible.

1. Bipartisan members of Congress, including Senator Cornyn and me, have been working to reauthorize and improve ONDCP and the HIDTA program.

- a. If confirmed, will you work with us to quickly reauthorize ONDCP?

ANSWER:. I will always work with Congress on initiatives to improve the health and lives of the American public.

- b. Do you support keeping HIDTA within ONDCP?

ANSWER: As I stated at my hearing, I support the President's budget and I am dedicated to ensuring the success of HIDTA regardless of where the program ultimately ends up.

- c. If you are confirmed, will ONDCP continue to prioritize expanding access to and use of medication-assisted treatment?

ANSWER: Yes.

2. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) are a federal model for offering comprehensive and accessible substance use disorder and mental health services, including outpatient treatment, crisis care, and peer support.

- a. If confirmed, how will you work with CCBHCs in states like Rhode Island to improve recovery outcomes and reduce the rate of overdoses for youths and adults?

ANSWER: CCBHCs have served over 2 million people and have resulted in decreases in emergency department visits and hospitalizations. The success of the program in connecting people in crisis to the care they need has created an appropriate increase in demand for them around the country. As Director, I would welcome the opportunity to work with CCBHCs in Rhode Island, and elsewhere around the country, to ensure they have the resources they need to better serve the needs of their communities.

A few days after the January 6 attack on the Capitol, you recorded a podcast episode with Rudy Giuliani. You said during that podcast that you were in Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021.

- b. Is that correct?

ANSWER: Yes.

- c. Why were you in Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021?

ANSWER: I lived in the area during that time.

- d. Did you ever enter Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021? If so, for how long and for what purpose?

ANSWER: No.

- e. Did you ever enter the Capitol building or a congressional office building on January 6, 2021? If so, for how long and for what purpose?

ANSWER: No.

- f. Was the Capitol attacked by a violent mob on January 6, 2021?

ANSWER: The events of January 6, 2021, are well documented. Many individuals were arrested and charged with attacking Capitol Police officers.

**Senate Judiciary Committee
Nomination Hearing
September 17, 2025
Questions for the Record
Senator Amy Klobuchar**

For Sara Carter, to be Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

1. One of my top priorities is ONDCP's High Intensity Drug Trafficking (HIDTA) Program. The resources and support that HIDTA provides its partners in law enforcement have proven invaluable. For example, the North Central HIDTA program—which includes Minnesota and Wisconsin—was responsible for seizing over 2.2 million fentanyl pills; 1,700 kilograms of meth; nearly 475 kilograms of cocaine; and more than 1,500 crime guns.

That's why I am concerned when the Administration proposed cutting \$102 million — or more than one-third of the HIDTA budget. The bills that have been reported out of the Appropriations Committee did not adopt the administration's request to slash HIDTA funding.

- If confirmed as ONDCP Director, do we have your commitment that ONDCP will utilize all of the funds Congress appropriates to support law enforcement?

ANSWER: Yes.

2. I have heard from numerous law enforcement officials, both in Minnesota and nationally, who are concerned about reports that the Administration is considering moving HIDTA out of ONDCP and into the Justice Department.

- Congress specifically placed HIDTA within ONDCP by statute. Do you agree that absent direct authorization from Congress, it cannot be moved to the Justice Department?

ANSWER: That is my understanding, however, I am not an attorney and cannot give a definitive legal answer.

3. I am very concerned about the prevalence of illegal drugs in our communities—especially when it comes to fentanyl, which is having particularly deadly consequences. The latest data from the Minnesota Department of Health indicates that synthetic opioids like fentanyl were involved in 70 percent of all overdose deaths in my state.

- What do you see as the ONDCP's role in addressing the opioid epidemic, particularly as it relates to synthetic opioids?

ANSWER: If confirmed as Director, I will use ONDCP's statutory authorities to develop policies and budgetary guidance and coordinate across Federal and state government to take the decisive action needed to stop the flow of dangerous drugs into our communities and reducing drug use in the country.

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Office of National Drug Control Policy
Questions for the Record
Submitted September 24, 2025**

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR COONS

1. If President Trump asked you to do something you judged to be illegal or unethical, would you resign? Please answer yes or no.

ANSWER: I cannot answer a hypothetical. In the time of I've known President Trump, I have never seen him instruct myself or others to do anything illegal or unethical.

- a. If you would not resign, what would you do?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 1.

2. As the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), when is it appropriate to refuse to follow a directive from the President?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 1.

3. How would you respond if your role at the ONDCP required you to follow a policy directive that you thought was unconstitutional?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 1. If confirmed, I will follow all applicable laws.

4. You said at your confirmation hearing, at the conclusion of your opening statement, that "our objective is not mitigation; it is victory."

- a. In your view, what constitutes "victory" at the ONDCP?

ANSWER: Preventing Americans from losing their lives to dangerous drugs is ONDCP's first and most fundamental responsibility, and will be my top priority as Director.

- b. What concrete steps will you take as Director to achieve your idea of "victory"?

ANSWER: As stated at the hearing, my strategy is to eliminate the poison sold by criminals and champion for prevention and treatment efforts. One of the most important things we can do to save lives is to get fentanyl off our streets. A secure border, aggressive domestic enforcement, and accountability for source countries, are the most effective strategies for protecting American lives. At the same time, we must also prevent illicit opioid use before it starts. That begins with raising awareness about overdose prevention through reimagined and reinvigorated public health and educational campaigns and expansion of evidence-based treatment.

5. Deaths caused by opioid overdoses have reached epidemic levels in the United States, including in Delaware, with devastating consequences for communities and families.

- a. What actions do you believe are most effective to combat the opioid epidemic?

ANSWER: As stated at the hearing, my strategy is to eliminate the poison sold by criminals and be a champion for prevention and treatment efforts. One of the most important things we can do to save lives is to get fentanyl off our streets. A secure border, aggressive domestic enforcement, and accountability for source countries, are the most effective strategies for protecting American lives. At the same, we must also prevent illicit opioid use before it starts. That begins with raising awareness about overdose prevention through reimagined and reinvigorated public health and educational campaigns and expansion of evidence-based treatment.

- b. How do you think the ONDCP can help break the cycle of addiction?

ANSWER: We must ensure that all individuals struggling with addiction and substance use disorder can find treatment and eventual recovery to lead productive, healthy lives. Central to this is ensuring effective, timely, and evidence-based treatment is available to all Americans who need it.

6. You have been a Special Advisor at the ONDCP since June 2025.

- a. What were your responsibilities in that role?

ANSWER: As a Special Advisor, my role at ONDCP was to advise the Acting Director who up until September was a career official.

- b. What have you accomplished since assuming that role?

ANSWER: I have familiarized myself with the structure, programs, and mission of the organization while providing advice on the overall guidance of the Trump Administration, including connecting with other political staff at the White House.

- c. Describe the selection process that resulted in you being named a Special Advisor.

ANSWER: I was appointed to the position.

- d. Who made the decision to hire you as a Special Advisor?

ANSWER: The President's Personnel Office.

7. Please explain why you are qualified for the position to which you have been nominated.

ANSWER: As I stated at my hearing, I have over 20 years of experience covering issues related to drug smuggling, human trafficking, and illicit narcotics. I spent years covering the southern border and broke news stories that Congress later held hearings about. I have also worked closely for years with law enforcement and the medical community to better understand the complexities of America's fight against illicit drugs. I also helped bring national attention to challenges faced by law enforcement and victims of illicit drugs.

- a. Do you have a medical degree? If so, please provide the date you earned the degree and the name of the institution from which you earned it.

ANSWER: No.

- b. Do you have a degree in public health? If so, please provide the date you earned the degree and the name of the institution from which you earned it.

ANSWER: No.

- c. Aside from your tenure as a Special Advisor at ONDCP, have you ever held a position in a local, state, or federal public health agency? If so, please list the title(s) you held and the dates you held the position.

ANSWER: No.

- d. Have you ever held a position in local, state, or federal law enforcement? If so, please list the title(s) you held and the dates you held the position.

ANSWER: No.

8. One of the ONDCP's primary responsibilities is crafting the National Drug Control Strategy every two years.

- a. What sources will you consult and resources will you employ to ensure that the 2026 Strategy contains the best evidence-backed proposals possible?

ANSWER: I will examine prior ONDCP strategies, review healthcare provider, law enforcement, and other stakeholder input solicited by ONDCP, and leverage the experts and personnel at ONDCP and the 19 drug control program agencies.

9. You said in your Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing that you support President Trump's budget request for FY 2026. ONDCP's 2026 Budget Request proposes to transfer the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program to the Department of Justice. It also proposes to transfer the Drug-Free Communities Support program, the Anti-Doping Activities program, and the World Anti-Doping Agency membership dues to the Department of Health and Human Services.

- a. If enacted, how will moving the HIDTA program from ONDCP to DOJ affect the program?

ANSWER: I cannot speculate on potential hypothetical situation. However, I can reaffirm my commitment to ensuring the success of the HIDTA program.

- b. Are you supportive of the proposal to move the HIDTA program from ONDCP to DOJ? Why or why not?

ANSWER: As I stated at my hearing, I support the President's budget and I am dedicated to ensuring the success of HIDTA regardless of where the program ultimately ends up.

- c. If enacted, how will moving the Drug-Free Communities Support program, the Anti-Doping Activities program, and the World Anti-Doping Agency membership dues from ONDCP to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) affect those programs?

ANSWER: I cannot speculate on potential hypothetical situation. However, I can reaffirm my commitment to ensuring the success of these programs.

- d. Are you supportive of the proposal to move these programs to DHHS? Why or why not?

ANSWER: As I stated at my hearing, I support the President's budget and I am dedicated to ensuring the success of these programs regardless of where the programs ultimately end up.

10. President Trump's FY 2026 budget for ONDCP zeroes out the following programs: Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance, Model Acts Program, and Section 103 of Public Law 114-198 (that is, grants created by the *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016*).

- a. Do you support these cuts?

ANSWER: I support the President's budget.

- b. Do you support the use of specialized courts, such as drug courts and Veterans Treatment Courts?

ANSWER: Specialized treatment courts are a proven, cost-effective approach for reducing crime and recidivism, and preventing overdose deaths by helping to get individuals with substance use disorders the help they need. The President's Statement of Drug Policy Priorities states, "We will encourage state and local efforts facilitating law-enforcement-assisted diversion to connect people who use drugs with supportive services that divert them from incarceration and reduce recidivism." Offering treatment and opportunities for change is a worthwhile investment for people who break the law because of their addiction.

11. The Department of Justice FY 2026 budget request also contains a 34 percent budget cut to the HIDTA program. I am concerned, as are many law enforcement agencies and associations, that this cut would make it harder for law enforcement to fight drug activity and ensure public safety—including in places like New Castle County in Delaware, which is part of the Philadelphia/Camden HIDTA.

- a. Do you support this cut?

ANSWER: As mentioned during my hearing, I support the President's budget. The HIDTA Program is critical to drug enforcement efforts nationwide, and I applaud the Liberty Mid-Atlantic HIDTA for its successes in disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking organizations throughout the region. I recognize that federal funding is imperative to programs such as HIDTA and I am a strong advocate for law enforcement.

- b. At your Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, you told Ranking Member Durbin that the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* supplements this funding. What code provision in the *One Big Beautiful Act* were you referencing in your response to Ranking Member Durbin?

ANSWER: SEC. 100051 (7) Appropriation for the Department of Homeland Security, which provides funding to support state and local participation in homeland security efforts.

12. On August 27, 2024, you wrote a post on X about interviewing a prisoner at CECOT, the maximum-security prison in El Salvador. You wrote that “El Salvador under [President Nayib Bukele] is a reflection of what can be for all of us if we fight against corruption and evil. [The prisoner] was once a child with hopes and dreams - he was recruited into MS13 at the age of 15 - he will now spend the rest of his life in prison under terrorism laws implemented by Bukele. Those laws have put thousands in prison but more importantly those laws are saving future generations.”

a. Do you support opening a prison like CECOT in the United States?

ANSWER: I support the President’s mission to make America safe again and would consult with DHS and DOJ with respect to safe and effective prison systems.

b. Do you support President Trump’s plan to send U.S. citizens to CECOT?

ANSWER: I support the President’s mission to make America safe again by incarcerating and deporting violent criminal gang members.

13. Relatedly, you have frequently stated that individuals involved in drug trafficking should receive harsh punishments. On February 17, 2025, you said on your podcast, *The Sara Carter Show*, that in order to “save our society from the horrors that we have seen over the last . . . hundred years,” the United States needs to “seize these organizations, get them off our streets, put them in prison indefinitely.”

a. Do you support mandatory life imprisonment sentences for drug traffickers?

ANSWER: I support serious consequences for drug traffickers who flood our streets with fentanyl and other illicit drugs that lead to the death of tens of thousands of Americans every year.

14. At your Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing, you said you will work to “systematically reduc[e] the demand for [drugs] here at home through robust prevention, treatment, and recovery support.”

a. Please explain how you will accomplish this goal with the resources currently available to the ONDCP.

ANSWER: Our approach will be balanced, and within ONDCP’s available resources, we will work to prevent drug use before it starts, save the lives of those who overdose, and provide access to evidence-based treatment leading to long-term recovery for everyone who needs it. This will be complemented by our work in preventing the production of illicit drugs overseas and their movement across our borders and into our communities; holding accountable those who traffic in illicit drugs and their raw materials, as well as those who facilitate the illicit drug trade.

b. In April, the Trump administration cut \$88 million in DOJ grants focused on addressing substance use and mental health disorders. Do you support these cuts?
ANSWER: I support the President's budgetary decisions, and will use all the resources available to address both the demand for illicit drugs in the United States as well as reducing their supply in America's communities.

c. As of June, the administration has terminated at least \$257 million in grants to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration related to drugs, addiction, and overdose. Do you support these cuts?

ANSWER: I fully support the President's budgetary decisions, and will work closely with our colleagues in SAMHSA on the full range of actions to reduce the demand for illicit drugs in America.

d. In March 2025, the administration attempted to cut over \$11 billion in public health grants allocated to help states fund addiction treatment, track mental health services, and more. Do you support these cuts?

ANSWER: I fully support the President's budgetary decisions, and I am committed to working with our state and local partners to increase access to the full range addiction treatment and mental health services.

15. After the U.S. military struck a boat off the coast of Venezuela, you wrote on Truth Social on September 2, 2025, that "[t]his is the only language the Narco terrorists understand... And President Donald J Trump delivers the message loud and clear."

a. Do you support President Trump's decision to use American military forces to strike suspected drug traffickers off the coast of Venezuela?

ANSWER: I support the President's decision use all the tools available to him including the military to combat narco terrorist who are responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans each year due to overdose.

b. Do you think President Trump's decision comported with U.S. law? Why or why not?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 15a.

c. Do you think President Trump's decision comported with international law? Why or why not?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 15a.

16. On your podcast, *The Sara Carter Show*, on April 1, 2025, you referred to federal judges as "political dogs of the Democratic party coming out to be a barrier against progress."

a. Do you recall making that statement?

ANSWER: Like many Americans I was voicing my frustration that after an election in which President Trump decisively won, the will of the American people was being thwarted by federal judges issuing injunctions that the Supreme Court later found exceeded their authority.

- b. Do you still agree with this statement?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 16a.

- c. Which federal judges do you think are “political dogs of the Democratic party”?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 16a.

17. On your podcast, on March 23, 2025, you said that “Deep State” players such as Hillary Clinton, President Clinton, President Biden, Jill Biden, and President Obama do not care about the Constitution, that they are “power hungry monsters . . . that are Marxist radicals . . . that’s why they’re spying . . . that’s why the PATRIOT Act was so important to them.”

- a. Do you recall making that statement?

ANSWER: Yes.

- b. Do you still agree with this statement?

ANSWER: I was expressing concern that during the various Administrations listed, actions were taken that were later found unconstitutional.

- c. Do you think that President Obama is a “Marxist radical”?

ANSWER: Like many on this committee, I was and am concerned about the inappropriate spying by the federal government.

18. On your podcast, on May 10, 2022, you said, “so we’ve got to be really careful because there’s a lot of people that want to keep whatever’s going on in our skies a secret.” You added: “Guys, if there’s stuff in our skies flying around our nuclear facilities and around our naval warships and our, you know, our F-18 Hornets and they are moving 700 to 900 Gs, we better know what’s going on in our skies. We don’t know if it’s from another planet. We don’t know if it’s from another universe. I don’t know. We don’t know.”

- a. What did you mean by this statement?

ANSWER: Like most Americans and Congress, I was concerned about reports of unidentified aerial phenomenon and the threat that they may pose.

- b. Do you think the U.S. government is hiding the existence of aircraft from “another planet” from the American people?

ANSWER: No.

- c. Do you think the U.S. government is hiding the existence of aircraft from “another universe” from the American people?

ANSWER: No.

19. On your podcast, on December 4, 2024, you referred to former Speaker of the House and current U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi as a “reptilian” and a “vampire.”

- a. Do you recall making these statements?

ANSWER: Yes.

- b. Do you still agree with these statements?

ANSWER: This statement was made on a podcast hyperbole to emphasize my dislike of her policies.

- c. What did you mean by these statements?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 19b.

20. You wrote on X on March 25, 2025, that U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett “is a very sad, violent and mentally disturbed woman.”

- a. Do you recall making that statement?

ANSWER: Yes.

- b. Do you still agree with it?

ANSWER: This statement was made to emphasize my dislike of her policies and behavior.

- c. What did you mean by that statement?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 20c.

21. You wrote on X on March 10, 2025, that Senator Adam Schiff was a “guilty secessionist.” You also wrote on X on June 24, 2024, that then-Rep. Schiff was “Lying Schiff” and that he belongs in prison.

- a. Do you recall making those statements?

ANSWER: Yes.

- b. Do you still agree with them?

ANSWER: I covered the Russia Hoax extensively which included covering actions taken by then-Rep. Schiff. According to public news sources, Senator Schiff is now under criminal investigation by the Department of Justice. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on this topic.

- c. What did you mean by those statements?

ANSWER: please see my response to question 21b.

- d. Do you think Senator Schiff should be imprisoned?

ANSWER: Please see my response to question 21d.

22. In the day after the riots at the Capitol on January 6, 2021, you said on your podcast that “the people that participated in it need to be arrested. They need to go to jail.” You also said on your podcast that the rioters’ actions were “disgusting and wrong.” On February 9, 2021, you wrote on X that January 6 “was a horrible moment in American history.”

- a. Do you still agree with me that the rioters' actions on January 6 were "disgusting and wrong"?

ANSWER: I consider it disgusting and wrong to attack law enforcement.

- b. Do you still think that the Department of Justice made the right decision by arresting and seeking prison sentences for January 6 rioters?

ANSWER: I believe and the Supreme Court also later found that the Biden Justice Department improperly applied existing statute to seek excessive prison sentences.

**Questions for the Record for Sara Carter
Submitted by Senator Richard Blumenthal
September 24, 2025**

1. Prior to June of this year, when you assumed your current position on an acting basis:
ANSWER: I would like to clarify that I am currently not in an acting role. I serve as a Special Advisor to ONDCP.
 - a. Had you ever worked in federal government?
ANSWER: No.
 - b. Had you ever worked in state government?
ANSWER: No.
 - c. Had you ever worked in local government?
ANSWER: No.
 - d. Had you ever worked in tribal government?
ANSWER: No.
2. Do you have any experience working in public health?
ANSWER: No. However, I spent years working alongside public health officials and helping to raise awareness for the health challenges the public faced when it came to illicit narcotics.
3. Do you have an educational background in public health?
ANSWER: No.
4. Do you have any experience working in law enforcement?
ANSWER: No. However, I spent years working alongside law enforcement and helping to raise awareness for the challenges they face.
5. Do you have an educational background in law enforcement?
ANSWER: No.
6. Do you have any experience working in drug policy?
ANSWER: I spent years covering the flow of drugs across the southern border and working alongside law enforcement and border patrol helping to raise awareness for the challenges they face.
7. Do you have an educational background in drug policy?
ANSWER: No.
8. The Office of National Drug Control Policy administers several programs which provide grants to state and local authorities including the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, which funds community substance use prevention efforts all across the country. If confirmed, will you commit to administering the Drug-Free Communities Support Program in a fair and nonpartisan manner?
ANSWER: Yes.

9. If confirmed, will you cooperate fully with congressional oversight, including but not limited to requests for documents and data and participation in hearings?

ANSWER: Yes.

10. If confirmed, will you commit to maintaining robust internal controls and oversight mechanisms to prevent misconduct?

ANSWER: Yes.

- a. If confirmed, will you protect federal employees who report misconduct or raise legitimate concerns about decisions undertaken by your office?

ANSWER: Yes.

11. If confirmed, will you commit to filing complete and accurate financial disclosure reports that include all required information about your financial interests and activities?

ANSWER: Yes.

12. You have amplified President Trump's claims that the 2020 election was stolen. Who won the 2020 election?

ANSWER: As I stated at my hearing, Joe Biden was certified as the winner of the 2020 election.

13. Were you in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021?

ANSWER: Yes.

- a. Were you inside the U.S. Capitol or on the U.S. Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021?

ANSWER: No.

14. You have claimed to support law enforcement. Many of those pardoned by President Trump for their roles in the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol engaged in assaults on law enforcement.

- a. Do you support President Trump's pardon of Daniel Ball, who threw an explosive device into a tunnel filled with law enforcement officers?

ANSWER: The Constitution vests the pardon authority solely on the President of the United States. As a current government employee, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the President's pardon decisions.

- b. Do you support President Trump's pardon of Jacob Lang, who was filmed hitting law enforcement officers with a baseball bat and riot shield?

ANSWER: Please see answer to question 14a.

- c. Do you support President Trump's pardon of Jeffrey McKellop, who stabbed a police officer in the face with a flagpole?

ANSWER: Please see answer to question 14a.

- d. Do you support President Trump's pardon of Daniel "D.J." Rodriguez, who plunged a stun gun into the neck of Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone and repeatedly shocked him?

ANSWER: Please see answer to question 14a.

Senator Mazie K. Hirono
Senate Judiciary Committee

Nomination Hearing
Questions for the Record for Sara Carter Bailey

1. Who has a constitutional right to due process in the United States?
 - a. Do noncitizens present in the United States have a constitutional right to due process?
ANSWER: That is my understanding, however, I am not an attorney and cannot give a definitive legal answer.
2. Have you ever worked in law enforcement?
 - a. If yes, please list your job title, the office you worked in, and the duration of your employment.
ANSWER: No. However, I spent years working alongside law enforcement and helping to raise awareness for the challenges they face.
3. Prior to 3 months ago, had you ever worked for the government?
 - a. If yes, please list your job title, the office you worked in, and the duration of your employment.
ANSWER: No.
4. Prior to 3 months ago, had you ever worked in drug policy?
 - a. If yes, please list your job title, the office you worked in, and the duration of your employment.
ANSWER: No. I spent years covering the flow of drugs across the southern border and working alongside law enforcement and border patrol helping to raise awareness for the challenges they face.
5. Prior to 3 months ago, had you ever worked in public health?
 - a. If yes, please list your job title, the office you worked in, and the duration of your employment.
ANSWER: No. However, I spent years working alongside public health officials and helping to raise awareness for the health challenges the public faced when it came to illicit narcotics.
6. What was the District Court's ruling in *Newsom, et al. v. Trump, et al.*?
 - a. Is President Trump bound by this ruling?
ANSWER: Since I am not an attorney it would not be appropriate to provide legal analyses of a court case.
7. In your confirmation hearing, Ranking Member Durbin asked you about firearms from the United States being used by the Mexican cartels. Under oath and in response to his question, you stated that "we have significantly reduced the flow [of firearms] going

south as well as coming north.” You also promised Ranking Member Durbin that you would produce evidence of this in writing.

- a. In the data you used to answer that question, what was the number of weapons being transported from the United States to Mexico in the last reporting period fully covering the Biden administration’s time in office?

ANSWER: In calendar year 2024, CBP seized 811 weapons at the southwest board being transported from the United States to Mexico.

- b. In the data you used to answer that question, what was the number of weapons being transported from Mexico to the United States in the last reporting period fully covering the Biden administration’s time in office?

ANSWER: In calendar year 2024, CBP seized 200 weapons at the southwest board being transported from Mexico to the United States.

- c. In the data you used to answer that question, what are the number of weapons being transported from the United States to Mexico in all of the reporting periods covering the Trump administration’s time in office?

ANSWER: Since February 2025, CBP has seized 298 weapons being transported from the United States to Mexico.

- d. In the data you used to answer that question, what are the number of weapons being transported from Mexico to the United States in all of the reporting periods covering the Trump administration’s time in office?

ANSWER: Since February 2025, CBP has seized 56 weapons being transported from Mexico to the United States. In the same time period, ATF had possession of 2 additional weapons intended for transportation from Mexico to the United States.

**Nomination of Sara Carter be
Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
Questions for the Record
Submitted September 24, 2025**

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR CORY A. BOOKER

1. During the hearing on your nomination to be Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), we discussed the pending cannabis rescheduling process. As you are aware, under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), the rescheduling process begins when the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) conducts a scientific evaluation and makes a recommendation to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Throughout the existence of the CSA's rescheduling process, DEA has never rejected a recommendation by HHS to reschedule a substance.

- a. Who do you believe is better suited to conduct the scientific and medical evaluations of drugs: prosecutors or scientists and doctors?

ANSWER: As stated at the hearing, if confirmed I will work with all relevant interagency stakeholders to ensure an examination of all facts and evidence. Under the CSA, scientists and doctors use a comprehensive approach in balancing potential risks and benefits of any substance, and the HHS Secretary provides a recommendation to the Attorney General.

- b. If you are confirmed, would you assign more weight to a scheduling recommendation from HHS based on its scientific and medical evaluation of a drug rather than DEA's opinion?

ANSWER: As stated at the hearing, I support the process under the CSA, and if confirmed I will work with all relevant interagency stakeholders to ensure an examination of all facts and evidence.

2. Provide yes or no responses to following questions:

- a. If you are confirmed, will you support additional federal funding for overdose prevention centers?

ANSWER: No, I support preventing overdoses and all harms caused by drugs. Each overdose save is an opportunity to connect a person to treatment and give them hope. I also fully support the President's executive orders.

- b. Should fentanyl test strips be legal and federally funded nationwide?

ANSWER: Fentanyl test strips are one tool in overall overdose prevention efforts, and they should be considered legal and not drug paraphernalia.

- c. Should every emergency room in America be required to have naloxone and offer medication-assisted treatment?

ANSWER: Yes, every emergency department in the United States has access to naloxone and MAT.

- d. Should extreme sentences for low-level fentanyl possession or distribution be eligible for clemency?

ANSWER: The Constitution vests the pardon authority solely on the President of the United States. As a current government employee, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the President's pardon decisions.

- e. Do you believe the "War on Drugs" approach has failed to reduce overdose deaths?

ANSWER: Our approach will be balanced: preventing the production of illicit drugs overseas and their movement across our borders and into our communities; holding accountable those who traffic in illicit drugs and their raw materials, as well as those who facilitate the illicit drug trade; preventing drug use before it starts; saving the lives of those who overdose; and providing access to evidence-based treatment leading to long-term recovery for everyone who needs it.

- f. If you are confirmed, do you commit to treating the fentanyl overdose crisis primarily as a public health crisis and not only a criminal justice issue?

ANSWER: If confirmed, I will work to advance as the full range of actions to reduce the demand for these drugs in America, and work equally hard to support the law enforcement community in countering transnational criminal organizations and stopping the flow of dangerous drugs into our country and our communities.

- g. If you are confirmed, will your leadership include treating fentanyl policies as justification for harsher domestic immigration enforcement?

ANSWER: No.

- h. Do you believe increased criminal penalties adequately deter people struggling with addiction from using drugs?

ANSWER: No. Deterrence and incentives are both important motivators in changing the behavior of drug use.

3. If you are confirmed, how do you plan to shift federal drug policy from a punitive law-enforcement model to a public health-centered model in order to address fentanyl overdoses?

ANSWER: People with a substance use disorder warrant compassionate care. Those who have been convicted of harming others, and profiting from those with substance use disorder must face the appropriate consequences. Offering treatment and opportunities for change is a worthwhile investment for people who break the law because of their addiction.

4. Given the failures of past "War on Drugs" crackdowns, if you are confirmed, how will your approach explicitly avoid repeating policies that increased incarceration without reducing overdose deaths?

ANSWER: If confirmed, I commit to saving lives and protecting America in every way possible as the Director of National Drug Control Policy. I will support the President's drug policy priorities, and take the decisive actions needed to stop the flow of dangerous drugs into our communities. That involves countering the foreign terrorist organizations

who traffic in illicit drugs, disrupting the global illicit supply chain, and holding accountable the countries that are sources of precursor chemicals and finished drugs that enter into the United States. At the same time, I will work to build a drug free America as the social norm and increase the availability of treatment that leads to long-term recovery at all parts of the continuum of the disease.

5. In April 2025, ONDCP released the Trump Administration’s Drug Policy Priorities, “a comprehensive and coordinated blueprint to reduce the devastating impact of illicit drugs on American society.”¹ The Statement of Drug Policy Priorities identifies a number of priorities that guide the Trump Administration’s development of drug control strategy.²

Policy Priority 1 is to “Reduce the Number of Overdose Fatalities, with a Focus on Fentanyl” and includes encouraging “state and local efforts facilitating law-enforcement-assisted diversion to connect people who use drugs with supportive services that divert them from incarceration and reduce recidivism” as well as “encourage[ing] state and local jurisdictions to increase the availability of drug test strips and naloxone to mitigate the impact of deadly drugs on communities across the country.”

- a. What is ONDCP’s role in supporting diversion of people who use drugs away from incarceration?

ANSWER: ONDCP supports a compassionate and balanced approach for people facing incarceration because of drugs. This cohort population is best suited to connection with evidence-based treatment and motivation to change while facing accountability for their actions.

- b. What is ONDCP’s role in increasing the availability of drug test strips and naloxone?

ANSWER: ONDCP supports policies for naloxone availability and distribution. Fentanyl test strips are one tool that should be legally available to test for fentanyl adulterated into other drugs.

- c. If you are confirmed, will ONDCP support legislation that expands federal funding to states and tribes to purchase drug checking strips?

ANSWER: ONDCP supports community drug checking that connects people with treatment opportunities and provides near real time public data.

- d. Now more than ever, it is critical to ensure that those working directly with people who use drugs or are in recovery have access to naloxone. If you are confirmed, what would be your role in guiding the Trump Administration’s strategy to ensure naloxone is directed to trusted community and health organizations working with those at highest risk?

ANSWER: If confirmed, I will work on policies that ensure the access of naloxone.

¹ *ONDCP Releases Trump Administration’s Statement of Drug Policy Priorities*, THE WHITE HOUSE (April 3, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/04/ondcp-releases-trump-administrations-statement-of-drug-policy-priorities/>.

² *STATEMENT OF DRUG POLICY PRIORITIES*, OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY (April 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-Trump-Administration-Drug-Policy-Priorities.pdf>.

Policy Priority 5 is to “Provide Treatment That Leads to Long-Term Recovery” and includes “expanding access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and improving integration of mental health treatment with clinical and recovery support services.”

- e. What is ONDCP’s role in expanding access to medications for opioid use disorder?

ANSWER: ONDCP will work to expand access to all the FDA-approved MOUD, and encourage their use not only in opioid treatment programs, but in primary care settings.

- f. If you are confirmed, how will ONDCP work with other federal agencies, such as the Food and Drug Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to expand access to medications for opioid use disorder?

ANSWER: If I am confirmed, ONDCP will work with HHS, FDA, SAMHSA and all federal partners to expand treatment of addiction throughout all stages of the disease and by using all available tools, including MOUD.

- g. If you are confirmed, what efforts will ONDCP undertake to expand access to medications for opioid use disorder?

ANSWER: If I am confirmed, ONDCP will work on policy to expand access to all the FDA-approved MOUD, and encourages their use not only in opioid treatment programs, but in the primary care settings.

Policy Priority 6 is to “Innovate in Research and Data to Support Drug Control Strategies” and includes prioritizing “the continuous collection and analysis of accurate, timely, and relevant data to inform policy.”

- h. If you are confirmed, how will you improve the capacity of ONDCP’s Office of Public Health?

ANSWER: ONDCP’s Office of Public Health is supported by a Chief Medical Officer board certified in emergency medicine and addiction medicine as well as a team of policy, public health, and pharmacy expertise. The public health office, as all our offices, work collaboratively with all ONDCP components and the interagency.

- i. If you are confirmed, how will you improve the capacity of ONDCP’s Office of Translational Research?

ANSWER: ONDCP’s Office of Translational Research is supported with a strong staff with research, data, epidemiology and statistics expertise. The Translational Research office works collaboratively with ONDCP components and the interagency to continue improving the data and research infrastructures needed to inform drug control policy.

Senator Peter Welch
Senate Judiciary Committee
Written Questions for Sara Carter Bailey
Hearing on “Nominations”
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

1. If you are confirmed, you would supervise the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area — also called HIDTA — programs that are overseen by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and have been utilized throughout the country, since their creation in 1988.

The New England HIDTA program has done great work in my state of Vermont since it was designated in 1999. I have serious concerns about the Trump Administration’s proposal to move HIDTA from your office to the Department of Justice.

- a. Will you commit to ensuring that HIDTA is able to continue its work within the Office of National Drug Control Policy?

ANSWER: As I stated at my hearing, I support the President’s budget and I am dedicated to ensuring the success of HIDTA regardless of where the program ultimately ends up.

2. Four days after we met to discuss your nomination prior to your confirmation hearing, on September 7, you reposted a tweet by Stephen Miller. In it, he said “The Democratic Party at every level—judges, politicians, academics, nonprofits—is organized around the defense and protection of the criminal, the monstrous, and the depraved. The more vile the threat, the more vociferously the Democrat Party works to protect and enable it.”

You added your own statement to Mr. Miller, writing “Facts” with an emoji pointing a finger at the text of the tweet.

- a. For the record, can you clarify whether you agree with Stephen Miller’s tweet?

ANSWER: Mr. Miller’s tweet was in reference to the murder of a young Ukrainian refugee on a train in North Carolina at the hands of a violent repeat offender with over 14 prior arrests. The shocking video of this violent attack was widely distributed and Americans rightly questioned why this violent offender was released.

3. On your podcast *The Sara Carter Show*, you said on September 30, 2024, that Democratic Party is “an extreme radical party that is literally trying to rob our nation of its freedom, rob you of its freedom, rob our nation of its constitution.” You added that Democrats are “monsters, swamp creatures, liars, charlatans.”

- a. For the record, do you believe Democrats are “monsters?”

ANSWER: Those statements were made in the lead up to what I consider was one of the most consequential Presidential elections of my lifetime Those statements were directed at the national ticket of the Democratic party at the time and does not reflect how I feel about all Democrats.

- b. Do you believe Democrats are “swamp creatures?”

ANSWER: Please see answer to question 3a.

- c. Do you believe Democrats are all “liars?”

ANSWER: Please see answer to question 3a.

- d. Do you believe Democrats are “charlatans?”

ANSWER: Please see answer to question 3a.

- e. Do you believe it was ever appropriate to make these comments or share them with your followers? Please explain.

ANSWER: Please see answer to question 3a.

4. If confirmed as Director of the ONDCP, how would you balance the need for patient access to treatment via telehealth while also leveraging existing infrastructure and technology to help ensure that controlled substances prescribed via telehealth are not misused or diverted, for instance, through the use of interstate prescription drug monitoring queries?

ANSWER: Telehealth brings several important benefits to patients, providers, and the health system overall. If confirmed as Director, I will work to minimize drug diversion and misuse by the continued use of Prescription Drug Monitoring (PDMP) systems, interstate queries on prescription histories, and safe prescribing and dispensing practices.