

Senator Peter Welch
Senate Judiciary Committee
Written Questions for Jon Adler
Hearing on “The Nomination of the Honorable Todd Blanche to be Attorney General of the
United States”
July 16, 2026

1. Do you believe federal prosecutors or law enforcement officers should face disciplinary actions, including termination, solely because they followed orders in good faith? Please explain why or why not.

Response: When considering whether or not a prosecutor or law enforcement officer should face disciplinary action, a professional evaluation of the totality of the circumstances must be undertaken. This includes, in part, an assessment of whether a prosecutor or officer's conduct aligns with their training, and whether their conduct coincided with a high-pressure situation or environment forcing them to make a reasonable decision under time-sensitive tense circumstances. Ultimately, they will be judged based on their training and what a reasonable person similarly employed would do, in conjunction with unwavering adherence to the rule of law.

2. On April 14, 2026, the Department of Justice released the FY27 President’s Budget Request, which said that “[a]s part of its reorganization plan, the Department plans to consolidate the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) into a single grants component named the Bureau of Justice Grants.” My office has heard from a variety of organizations that receive federal grants, including those supporting law enforcement, domestic violence prevention, and youth mentoring, that are opposed to this consolidation. Can you provide your personal opinion on this consolidation?

Response: Having served as the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, within the Office of Justice Programs, I am familiar with the operational components you referenced in your question. I understand the premise of a consolidation is centered around the reasonable objective to reduce operational costs and hindering bureaucracies. I also experienced circumstances where the separation of these grant components negatively impacted their ability to coordinate effectively and timely.

I support the current organization plan put forth by the Department of Justice, and value them being responsive to the ideas of the national law enforcement organization stakeholders.

3. Under Mr. Blanche’s leadership, the DOJ sought to vacate the convictions and dismiss the indictments of individuals involved in the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. This group included individuals convicted by a jury of seditious conspiracy for assaulting, resisting, or impeding police officers.

- a. Do you believe the Department's decision reflects support for federal law enforcement? Please explain why or why not.

Response: Since Acting Attorney General Blanche joined the Department of Justice as a paralegal, and then ultimately as an Assistant United States Attorney, he has been a strong proponent for protecting the wellness and safety of all law enforcement officers, as well as the American citizenry. During his leadership within the Department of Justice, he has inspired prosecutors across the country to pursue charges against violent criminals who attack law enforcement. This includes protecting officers from ICE and CBP who are violently attacked with alarming frequency. Acting Attorney General Blanche's support for officer safety did not waver on or after January 6th, 2021, and contrary to the inference in your question, he made no decision supporting anyone who attacked police officers that day.

- b. What message do you believe the Department's decision sends to officers who were assaulted on January 6, 2021? Please explain.

Response: Unfortunately, the biased news media and certain members of Congress misrepresented the position of Acting Attorney General Blanche regarding officers who were assaulted on January 6, 2021. During his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 15, 2026, Acting Attorney General Blanche denounced any attacks against law enforcement officers, and I support his sustained support for officer safety. That is why the largest national law enforcement organizations all endorsed the nomination of Acting Attorney General Blanche.

Questions for the Record

Jon Adler

Sen. Adam Schiff (CA)

1. The Department of Justice hired Jared Wise, a January 6th defendant indicted for assaulting police officers outside Capitol Hill. As captured on video during the January 6th attack on the Capitol, Wise shouted “Yeah, fuck them! Yeah, kill ‘em” and “Kill ‘em! Kill ‘em! Kill ‘em!” as police officers were being violently assaulted in front of him. Trump later pardoned Wise for his crimes against law enforcement officers. Wise worked for the Administration for nine months until he resigned in April 2026. Todd Blanche directly oversaw the Department’s Weaponization Working Group, which Jared Wise worked for. What message does this Administration send to police officers by hiring and pardoning an insurrectionist who has shown zero remorse for assaulting police officers?

Response: The unwavering message sent by Acting Attorney General Blanche throughout his distinguished career with the Department of Justice is that he opposes violent crime, including violence committed against law enforcement officers. He has not wavered from that honorable position, and that is why he earned the overwhelming support and endorsement of the nation's largest law enforcement organizations.

When violent anarchists attacked and set fire to the Portland Federal Courthouse on March 11, 2021, and attacked those brave officers who were outnumbered, I was appalled. I was equally appalled with anyone who attacked law enforcement officers on January 6 at our nation’s Capitol.

I am further appalled with anti-law enforcement elected officials who continue to fan the flames of hatred against those who uphold the Thin Blue Line, while normalizing assaultive resistance against federal police officers.

I am outright appalled with the prior Administration's nonchalant attitude towards 1.5 million known got-aways illegally crossing the southwest border, while presenting a clear and present danger to our Border Patrol and police officers nationwide. In fact, from the end of 2023 into 2024, at least five police officers were seriously injured or killed by illegal aliens. That is appalling.

With his commanding the overwhelming respect of the largest law enforcement stakeholder groups, I think it is abundantly clear that Acting Attorney General Blanche is the ideal nominee for the position of Attorney General.