

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

October 24, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

On October 7, 2025, Pam Bondi made her first appearance before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary as the Attorney General for a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Justice.” However, instead of engaging in good faith with Committee members who have a constitutional obligation to conduct oversight of her management of the Department, its authorities, and resources, Attorney General Bondi refused to answer legitimate questions from both Democratic and Republican Members of the Committee and instead repeatedly launched partisan attacks against Democratic Members.

When Ranking Member Durbin asked Attorney General Bondi about her role in determining the legality of deploying the National Guard domestically, she rebuffed any transparency, answering: “I am not going to discuss any internal conversations with the White House.”¹ Setting aside the fact that Congress does not recognize the extensive scope of privileges that the Executive Branch often claims, Ranking Member Durbin’s question does not touch upon any privilege, nor did Attorney General Bondi properly assert a claim of privilege in her testimony. The Trump Administration has already federalized and deployed hundreds of National Guard troops domestically, and it is in the interest of all Members of this Committee to understand any purported legal rationale the Administration is relying on to deploy the military to American cities over the objections of home-state governors.

Currently, the Trump Administration is claiming that the United States is in an “armed conflict” with drug cartels and that it is authorized to use legal force against those it suspects to be “narcoterrorists” without the authorization of Congress; it has since exercised this authority at least seven times.² When asked by Senator Coons to provide the legal basis for these actions, Attorney General Bondi responded: “I’m not going to discuss any legal advice that my [D]epartment may or may not have given or issued at the direction of the [P]resident on this matter.”³ Senator Coons did not ask Attorney General Bondi to provide all legal advice ever provided about any number of hypotheticals considered by the Trump Administration; instead, he asked for the specific legal rationale the Administration is currently relying on for operations it has already conducted. There is no justification for withholding this information from Congress—the President may not engage in an unauthorized war based on a secret legal opinion.

¹ Transcript, Oversight of the Department of Justice, Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Oct. 7, 2025), available at <https://plus.cq.com/doc/congressionaltranscripts-833499470> [hereinafter “Hearing Transcript”].

² Joe Walsh, *Trump Administration Strikes A Seventh Alleged Drug Boat, Killing 3*, CBS NEWS (Oct. 19, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/strikes-seventh-alleged-drug-boat-killing-3-hegseth>.

³ Hearing Transcript.

Attorney General Bondi also hid behind a generic response when Senator Klobuchar tried to press her on high-profile terminations of prosecutors. President Trump publicly demanded that Attorney General Bondi take legal action against a list of his perceived political enemies, including former FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James.⁴ When Senator Klobuchar asked about the removals of former Acting U.S. Attorney Erik Siebert and other prosecutors who refused to attempt to charge cases due to lack of evidence, Attorney General Bondi would only answer: “I am not going to discuss personnel decisions.”⁵

Instead of providing information on these topics of national importance, Attorney General Bondi came prepared to make ad hominem attacks on Democratic senators in an attempt to deflect legitimate oversight questions.⁶ For example, she sidestepped questions about her role in the Jeffrey Epstein coverup by falsely accusing Ranking Member Durbin and Senator Whitehouse of taking campaign donations from Reid Hoffman.⁷ This is not the conduct of a public servant who respects constitutional checks and balances.

Given the lack of any public explanations for the Trump Administration’s unprecedented actions on a number of critical issues and Attorney General Bondi’s abdication of her duty to Congress and the public to provide substantive answers during the hearing, we ask that you join us in a bipartisan request from the Committee to DOJ for the immediate production of the following items:

1. All memoranda or related analysis produced by DOJ’s Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) authorizing the Trump Administration’s federalization and deployment of National Guard forces domestically.
2. All memoranda or related analysis produced by OLC authorizing the Trump Administration to deploy active-duty military domestically.
3. The classified memorandum produced by DOJ’s Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) authorizing the Trump Administration’s use of lethal force against alleged narcoterrorists in the Caribbean and other related analysis.⁸
4. All documents and communications, including recordings, emails, text messages, and calendar entries, referring or related to the FBI’s investigation into Tom Homan and DOJ’s decision to end that investigation.⁹

⁴ Dennis Romero, *Trump Publicly Pushes Attorney General Pam Bondi to Prosecute His Political Foes*, NBC NEWS (Sep. 20, 2025), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/trump-administration/trump-publicly-pushes-attorney-general-pam-bondi-go-political-foes-rcna232669>.

⁵ Hearing Transcript.

⁶ Reuters, *Bondi’s Handwritten Rebuttal Notes*, BBC (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/cn4w50ld9net?post=asset%3Aa220fde9-dcd5-4be8-8b06-dbe7f5f475cd#post>.

⁷ Hearing Transcript.

⁸ Natasha Bertrand & Zachary Cohen, *Exclusive: Classified Justice Department opinion authorizes strikes on secret list of cartels, sources say*, CNN (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/06/politics/classified-justice-department-memo-cartel-strikes>.

⁹ Letter from Senate Judiciary Committee Members to Attorney General Bondi and Deputy Attorney General Blanche (September 23, 2025), <https://www.schiff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Letter-to-DOJ-re-Homan-Corruption.pdf>.

5. All documents and communications, including emails, text messages, and calendar entries, referring or related to the initial decisions not to charge former FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James, any adverse personnel actions taken against any political appointee or career prosecutor assigned to these cases, and the decision by interim U.S. Attorney Lindsay Halligan to charge these cases.
6. Responses to the following overdue oversight requests regarding Epstein-related issues: the July 17, 2025 letters from Ranking Member Durbin to Attorney General Bondi, FBI Director Patel, and FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino; the July 28, 2025 letter from Ranking Member Durbin to Deputy Attorney General Blanche; and the August 7, 2025 letter from Senator Whitehouse to the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
7. All memoranda or related analysis produced by DOJ's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC), Attorney General Bondi, or any other DOJ personnel concluding that President Trump's acceptance of a \$400 million private jet from the Qatari Royal Family for use as Air Force One before its ownership is transferred to the Trump Presidential Library Foundation was "legally permissible."¹⁰

We would never have accepted such conduct from an Attorney General appointed by a Democratic president. We cannot allow the Trump Administration to stonewall Congress as it continues to undo our nation's constitutional order and undermine the rule of law. We ask you to help us defend the Constitution, and Congress as a co-equal branch of the federal government, because no one is served by a Congress that allows an Administration—of either party—to reject its oversight authority and usurp its legislative function.

Sincerely,

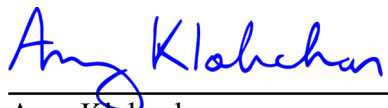


Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

¹⁰ Hannah Rabinowitz, *DOJ Lawyers Cleared Pam Bondi's Memo Backing The Legality Of Trump Accepting Qatari 747*, CNN (May 14, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/05/14/politics/bondi-justice-department-trump-qatar-747>; Jonathan Karl & Katherine Faulders, *Trump Administration Poised to Accept 'Palace in the Sky' as a Gift for Trump from Qatar: Sources*, ABC NEWS (May 11, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-administration-poised-accept-palace-sky-gift-trump/story?id=121680511>.



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



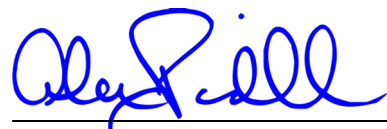
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator