



PROVIDING A CHECK ON EXECUTIVE POWER

Whether it is declaring a phony national emergency so that the President can build a wall without authorization from Congress or dramatically expanding the use of executive privilege to conceal information from Congress, the Trump Administration has asserted unprecedented power that threatens to undermine the separation of powers that is so integral to our constitutional system. The President has also issued a number of questionable pardons without undertaking the rigorous review process employed by previous presidents, and the Attorney General has taken numerous actions that have put the independence of the Department of Justice into question. That is why the Judiciary Committee launched an investigation into political interference at the Department of Justice and held a series of hearings to shed light on the Trump Administration's disturbing use of its executive power and to highlight political interference at the Department of Justice and threats to prosecutorial independence. In addition, in the wake of racial justice protests throughout the country, the Judiciary Committee, in conjunction with other committees, demanded that the Inspectors General of the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security open an immediate investigation into the Trump Administration's use of violent tactics against peaceful protestors in Washington D.C., Portland, Oregon, and elsewhere around the country.

The Committee also held a hearing on oversight of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to determine appropriate reforms to the government's secret surveillance powers. This hearing helped inform the drafting of the USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act of 2020, which included significant reforms to the FISA process.



COMMITTEE WORK

H.R. 6172, the “USA FREEDOM Reauthorization Act of 2020” [Passed House]

H.R. 2678, the “No President is Above the Law Act” [Marked Up]

H.R. 7694, the “Abuse of the Pardon Prevention Act” [Marked Up]

Hearing: The National Emergencies Act of 1976

Hearing: Examining the Constitutional Role of the Pardon Power

Hearing: Presidential Clemency and Opportunities for Reform

Hearing: Executive Privilege and Congressional Oversight

Hearing: Oversight of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act

Hearing: Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Hearing: Oversight of the Department of Justice: Political Interference and Threats to Prosecutorial Independence

Hearing: Oversight of the Department of Justice

Spotlight: The Trump Administration has broken societal norms that threaten the fabric of our democracy by engaging in conduct that was once unthinkable. This conduct has been aided by the Attorney General’s failure to protect the Department of Justice from political interference and the personal interests of the President, as illustrated in the Committee’s oversight hearings of the Department of Justice. In response, the Committee took strong action to close dangerous loopholes revealed by the President’s actions. The No President is Above the Law Act would suspend the statute of limitations for any federal offense committed by a sitting president, whether it was committed before or during the president’s term of office. This legislation would ensure that the presidency is not a get-out-of-jail-free card. The Abuse of the Pardon Prevention Act would require much-needed transparency if the President issues a pardon or commutation in circumstances that may involve corrupt self-dealing, or if the President issues clemency for an offense that undermines the integrity of Congress’s own proceedings. It also reaffirms and makes explicit that abuse of the pardon power can constitute a criminal offense under the federal anti-bribery law and that a president may not pardon him or herself.