



House committee votes to subpoena Bondi to answer questions over Epstein files

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Oversight Committee voted Wednesday to subpoena Attorney General Pam Bondi to answer questions over the Justice Department's handling of files regarding the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking investigation.

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Five Republicans joined Democrats to support the subpoena proposed by GOP Rep. Nancy Mace in a sign of continued frustration among conservatives with the department's review and release of a tranche of documents related to the disgraced financier. The move amounted to a sharp rebuke of Bondi by Republicans who have been clamoring for information about Epstein's abuse of young girls and his interactions with rich and powerful people.

The American people want answers on the Epstein files, and so do we," Mace, of South Carolina, said in a post on X.

The Justice Department had no immediate comment on the subpoena.

The Epstein files remain a political headache for the Trump administration more than a year after Bondi sparked backlash by handing out binders of documents with no new revelations to conservative influencers at the White House. Then, after a months-long review, the Justice Department in July said it had concluded that no Epstein "client list" existed and there was no reason to make additional files public.

That set off a furor that prompted Congress to pass legislation demanding that the Justice Department release the files. Since the first release in December, critics have accused the administration of fumbling the rollout and withholding too many documents. Administration officials have said lawyers worked as quickly as possible to properly review, redact and release millions of documents required under the law.

"For months, Attorney General Bondi has been instrumental in orchestrating the White House's cover-up of the Epstein files, and has failed to comply with our bipartisan subpoena for the release of the complete, unredacted files," Rep. Robert Garcia of California, the top Democrat on the committee, said in a statement. "The American people deserve transparency, survivors deserve justice, and we are demanding answers."

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That announcement followed news reports saying that a massive tranche of records released by the Justice Department did not include several summaries of interviews that the FBI conducted with an unidentified woman who came forward after Epstein's 2019 arrest and claimed to have been sexually assaulted by both Trump and Epstein when she was a minor in the 1980s.

Former President Bill Clinton and his wife, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, recently sat with lawmakers on the committee for their own depositions over the former Democratic president's connections to Epstein from more than two decades ago.

Bill Clinton told members of Congress on Friday that he "did nothing wrong" in his relationship with Epstein and saw no signs of Epstein's sexual abuse. Hillary Clinton told lawmakers she had no knowledge of Epstein's crimes and did not recall "ever encountering Mr. Epstein."

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