

12.17.21 – House Admin Remarks

- I would like to begin by thanking Chairwoman Lofgren and Ranking Member Davis for hosting today's hearing.
- I would especially like to thank Ranking Member Davis for his attention to the serious issues we are about to discuss.
- As a husband and father, I can attest to the fact that threats of violence against Members of Congress and their families are a deeply personal issue for many of us.
- As the proud employer of a committed team of public servants, I also know the deep sense of responsibility that many of us feel when those same threats are directed at our staff.
- This issue cuts across party lines, but has all too often been marginalized by partisan posturing and finger pointing.
- We all have a responsibility to work to turn the temperature down, but we also have a responsibility to take threats seriously and ensure an appropriate and full response whenever they occur.
- I am appearing before the Committee today to recognize the personal stakes of this issue, but just as importantly, to take a clear-eyed and practical view, recognizing threats

against Members of Congress for what they are: a dire challenge to the security and integrity of this institution.

- Simply put: We know that instances of these threats are increasing, stretching the resources available to Capitol Police and the Sergeant at Arms.
- In May, the Capitol Police reported a 107% increase in threats against Members compared to 2020, but as the year comes to an end, we have a more complete picture.
- As of this week, more than 9,000 concerning communications and direct threats have been reported to the Capitol Police in the past year.
- 4,782, or more than half of those, were directed against members of the House.
- And, last month alone, nearly 400 concerning communications and direct threats were reported to Capitol Police.
- We are confronted with a concerning, and frankly dangerous, security posture when we consider these numbers relative to the limited resources available to the Capitol Police's Threat Assessment Section, especially compared to similar agencies like the U.S. Secret Service.

- Given that a significant share of the responsibility for addressing this issue falls to this Committee, I hope that we can find ways to work together in the upcoming session.
 - We've already received insights on the challenges facing the Capitol Police in the past year, including from the Department's Inspector General, and it is time for us to act.
 - To start, we need to have serious and substantive conversations on how to:
 - Expand resources for threat assessment;
 - Enable any necessary structural reforms;
- *AND*
- Improve coordination between Capitol Police, the Department of Justice, and local police in response to threats against Members and staff.
- I say this not only as a Member who has received multiple credible threats during my time in Congress, but as someone who has heard from Members on both sides of the aisle regarding the real safety concerns facing themselves and their families.
- The costs of inaction could be both tragic and catastrophic, as the members of this Committee know all too well.

- Like many of my colleagues, I stand ready to work with the Committee on this issue and hope that we are given the opportunity in the year ahead.
- Thank you.