

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
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<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 28, 2022

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

We are concerned about recent cyberattacks against Christian websites and charitable donation portals carried out due to their support of conservative values and causes. Direct attacks against religious people deserve no place in our society and undermine the ability of citizens to express their viewpoints without fear of harmful retribution. We write to inquire into the Department of Justice's (DOJ) efforts to enforce federal law related to these politically-motivated cyberattacks intended to chill the speech of religious and conservative Americans, as well as efforts to prevent them from happening in the future.

Hackers recently infiltrated websites connected to Christian organizations supporting the pro-life movement, stealing and then leaking vast quantities of data maintained by those organizations.¹ The hackers mocked the rule of law and a conservative religious organization, taunting, "[w]e decided to bring about some much needed radical transparency by taking it upon ourselves to make your list of donors public."² That hack follows on the heels of another attributed to the hacking group "Anonymous," which commandeered the website of the Texas Republican Party because of its pro-life support.³ A self-described "cyberterrorist" also took credit in February for hacking the Christian fundraising website GiveSendGo after its platform was used by Canadian truckers protesting COVID-19 related restrictions.⁴

¹ AJ Vicens, *Hackers leak huge cache of data from evangelical organization that supported Dobbs decision*, CYBERSCOOP, July 22, 2022.

² *Id.*

³ Paul Flahive, *Texas GOP website hacked by activists protesting abortion law*, TEXAS PUBLIC RADIO, Sept. 11, 2021.

⁴ Ryan King, *Famous 'cyberterrorist' goes on TikTok to take credit for GiveSendGo hack*, WASHINGTON EXAMINER, Feb. 16, 2022.

The Department of Justice must investigate these attacks, which are likely unlawful⁵ and clearly intended to chill the right of our citizens to peacefully express their opinions on matters of public importance as well as donations to conservative or religious organizations. Citizens in this country should be free to exercise their rights without fear of malicious cyberattacks.

To understand what the Department of Justice is doing to address politically-motivated cyberattacks intended to silence supporters of conservative causes, please provide a briefing to the Committee no later than October 5, 2022.

To make arrangements to schedule the briefing or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform Republican staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations



Glenn Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties

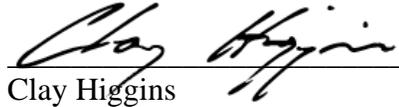


Yvette Herrell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment

⁵ See e.g. 18 U.S.C. § 1030.



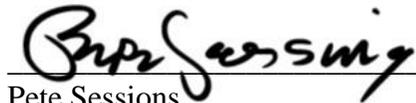
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



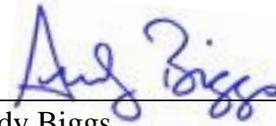
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties