

House Republicans Revive Investigation of Biden's Decline

Oversight panel asks to interview president's physician and several top aides

By Annie Linskey
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WASHINGTON—The Republican-led House Oversight Committee on Thursday requested interviews with former President [Joe Biden's](#) physician and several top aides as it reopened a probe into what was known about Biden's health and age-related decline while in office.

The investigation appears largely to be picking up where it ended last year. Many of the same people whom the committee subpoenaed in the last Congress were again asked to be interviewed. The letters issued Thursday came short of compelling them to come forward, though the panel has the ability to do that.

“The cover-up of President Biden's obvious mental decline is a historic scandal,” said House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman James Comer (R., Ky.). “The American people deserve to know when this decline began, how far it progressed, and who was making critical decisions on his behalf.”

Biden's mental acuity is the subject of new questions [as several books](#) have been published recently detailing instances where his lapses caused alarm to those who interacted with him. Biden abandoned his re-election campaign last summer after a disastrous debate performance where he sometimes appeared confused and had difficulty forming sentences on stage. The Wall Street Journal reported [extensively](#) on his mental slips, [including before the June debate](#).

The oversight panel Thursday asked Biden's physician, Dr. Kevin O'Connor, to provide information to the committee. O'Connor [has come under increased scrutiny](#) in the past week after Biden's diagnosis of advanced prostate cancer stirred debate about why the president wasn't receiving regular screening.

The panel is also asking for testimony from three aides who spent a lot of time with the president and were originally subpoenaed last year: Annie Tomasini and Ashley Williams, who were two of Biden's top personal aides; along with Anthony Bernal, who was a top aide to former first lady Jill Biden. None of them immediately responded for comment. They didn't provide testimony last year.

New to the list is Neera Tanden, who was a senior White House official but was outside Biden's tight circle of longtime advisers and now serves as the president of the left-

leaning think tank Center for American Progress. She didn't respond to a request for comment.

Separately, Sen. Ron Johnson (R., Wis.), who chairs the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, issued letters Wednesday to more than two dozen former Biden cabinet officials and former Vice President [Kamala Harris](#), asking them to come in by early June for voluntary interviews about Biden's mental state and their observations about his age-related decline.