

Research Report

**SENATOR CORNYN'S PARTISANSHIP
AND HYPOCRISY: FREQUENTLY CRITICIZED
LEGITIMATE CONCERNS REGARDING TRUMP
NOMINEES' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST,
NOW LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR
OBSTRUCTION ON BEHALF OF
SPECIAL INTEREST ALLIES**

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**From January 2017 To March 2017, Cornyn
Released At Least A Dozen Statements
Criticizing Democrats For “Slow-Walking”
Confirmation Of Trump’s Cabinet Despite
Ethics Concerns Over The
Wealthiest Cabinet In Modern History.**

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SUMMARY: Senator Cornyn's newfound concern for "transparency" doesn't pass the smell test given his record rushing through Trump administration nominees with conflicts of interest and financial ties to special interests. After years of jamming through Trump nominees, Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) is now reversing course, saying, "[Transparency is non-negotiable](#)," in an apparent reference to the confirmation process around President-elect Biden's cabinet nominees.

Transparency appears to be a recent interest for Cornyn, who spent the Trump administration spinning legitimate oversight and concerns about transparency and conflicts of interest as obstruction. In early 2017, Cornyn released at least a dozen statements and press releases accusing Senate opponents of "slow-walking," "stalling," "playing politics," and "obstructing" Trump cabinet nominees, while they waited on disclosures or raised concerns about conflicts of interest, including financial ties to special interest allies.

Contrary to Cornyn's partisan allegations, many of these "delays" emerged due to legitimate concerns from watchdog groups and the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) on nominees' record and transparency. Many of Trump's nominees had extensive financial ties to the industries they were nominated to oversee and failed to provide accurate information during the nomination process. A top OGE official gave the Trump White House a warning in November 2016 about "unprecedented" lack of coordination with the office when it came to cabinet nominees; yet the Trump administration continued to sideline the office through the process, including making it difficult for OGE to gain access to paperwork.

One such nominee was billionaire Republican donor and now-Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. Cornyn expressed support for DeVos and provided confident lines to the media: saying you could take the confirmation "to the bank," Cornyn claimed the opposition to her appointment was a "stunt," as Senators "know how this story ends" and were only trying to impress "their dysfunctional base." This was in the face of complaints from other Senators over a lack of financial disclosures amidst a "rushed" confirmation; a lengthy ethics agreement that divested DeVos from 102 separate companies and continued complaints from ethics watchdogs that, even with this agreement, DeVos failed to provide accurate and substantial information on other financial interests and her connections to outside groups. Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) called DeVos' continued listing as a co-trustee on a family trust as a "disqualifier in itself."

Cornyn's interest in galloping nominees also emerged during the confirmation process for former-Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Cornyn portrayed the timely appointment of Sessions as a safety concern, saying "holding up confirmations just for delay's sake is irresponsible, and it's dangerous." In early December 2016, Cornyn scoffed at a colleague's complaint over incomplete record and request to slow down the process, arguing they had served in the Senate together for years. Cornyn further claimed concerns were "obviously for posturing and for show," as Democrats wanted to "slow down" nominations. Cornyn's comments came amidst revelations that Sessions failed to disclose certain financial interests such as oil sub-surfacing rights in Alabama.

Beyond cabinet appointments, Cornyn's interest in transparency has appeared negotiable in the past. In September 2016, two months before Trump stood for election, Cornyn blocked a presidential tax transparency proposal from Oregon Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR). Four years later, Cornyn abruptly reversed himself saying Trump should have released his taxes in 2016. In between, Cornyn called a Democratic Congressman who requested Trump's tax returns a "partisan hack," saying Democrats should be focused on the border.

Early 2017: Cornyn Released At Least A Dozen Statements Lambasting Democrats For “Slow-Walking” Confirmation Of Trump’s Cabinet.

January 2017 To March 2017: Cornyn Released At Least A Dozen Statements, Almost All With Video, Criticizing Democrats For “Slow-Walking” Trump’s Cabinet. According to an Accountable.US analysis of Senator John Cornyn’s press materials, from November 2016 to March 2017, Cornyn released a dozen statements criticizing Democrats for slow-walking Trump’s Cabinet, as outlined below:

- [1/5/17](#): “**Cornyn Urges Democrats Not To Slow-Walk Cabinet Nominations**” (VIDEO)
- [1/17/17](#): “**Cornyn To Democrats: Don’t Play Politics With Trump’s Nominees, National Security**” (VIDEO)
- [1/23/17](#): “**Cornyn Calls On Democrats To Stop Stalling On President Trump’s Cabinet Nominees**”
- [1/23/17](#): “**Cornyn Urges Support For Pompeo, Presses Democrats To Stop Slow-Walking Cabinet Nominees**” (VIDEO)
- [1/24/17](#): “**Cornyn To Democrats: End Obstruction Of Bipartisan Cabinet Nominees**” (VIDEO)
- [1/31/17](#): “**Cornyn Urges Democrats To Work With GOP On Cabinet Nominees**” (VIDEO)
- [2/2/17](#): “**Cornyn: Mindless Obstruction, Foot-Dragging Undermining Transition Of Power**” (VIDEO)
- [2/6/17](#): “**Cornyn: Democrat Obstruction Of Cabinet Nominees Irresponsible And Embarrassing**” (VIDEO)
- [2/7/17](#): “**Cornyn: Delaying Confirmation Of Critical National Security Post ‘Inexcusable’**” (VIDEO)
- [2/9/17](#): “**Cornyn: Democrat Obstruction Preventing Senate From Tackling Big Challenges**” (VIDEO)
- [2/14/17](#): “**Cornyn: Democrats ‘Fractured’ Over Cabinet Obstruction**” (VIDEO)
- [2/28/17](#): “**Cornyn Calls On Democrats To Help Confirm Remaining Cabinet Nominees**” (VIDEO)

[Office of Senator John Cornyn, All News, Accessed [11/30/20](#)]

On The Day Of Trump’s Inauguration, Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) Tweeted, “I Am Prepared For The Senate To Stay In Session As Long As It Takes - All Night, All Weekend - To Confirm President Trump’s Cabinet Nominees.” [[Tweet by Sen. John Cornyn](#), 01/20/17, accessed 11/06/20]

- **Trump Was Inaugurated On January 20, 2017.** [[“The Inaugural Address,”](#) The White House, 01/20/17]

February 2017: Senator Cornyn Accused Senate Democrats Of Obstructing And Slow-Walking Trump’s Cabinet Nominees, Saying They Were Taking Advantage Of “Every Possible Procedural Delay.” “Today on the Senate floor, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) addressed the decision from Senate Democrats to delay and slow-walk the nominations of the President’s choices to fill his Cabinet even though they can’t stop them. [...] ‘This week we’ll continue to grind our way through consideration of President Trump’s nominees despite the best efforts of our friends across the aisle to obstruct and to slow-walk. Because of their insistence on taking advantage of every possible procedural delay, they’ve tried to grind the Senate into a near halt.’ [Senator John Cornyn – Press Release, [2/6/17](#)] (VIDEO)

February 2017: Senator Cornyn Accused Senate Democrats Of Slowing Down Trump’s Nomination Process “For No Reason Other Than The Fact They Can,” And Argued To Get The Nominations Finished So The Cabinet Can Begin Working For Americans. “Today on the Senate floor, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) addressed the decision from Senate Democrats to delay and slow-walk the nominations of the President’s choices to fill his Cabinet even though they can’t stop them. [...] ‘All they can do, which is all they have done to this point, is to slow the process down for no reason other than the fact that they can.’ ‘It’s a strategy in search of a goal. They don’t have any particular goal in mind because at the end of the

day, the President will get the Cabinet that he has nominated and deserves.' [...] 'Dragging this out doesn't do any good. It won't change the outcome. And it ill-serves the American people. Let's get these nominations done so they can be sworn-in and begin their service to this new Administration and, more importantly, to the American people.'" [Senator John Cornyn – Press Release, [2/6/17](#)] (VIDEO)

The Delay For Trump's Cabinet Nominees Was, In Part, Caused By Transparency And Ethics Concerns And "Unprecedented" Non-Coordination With The Office Of Government Ethics.

November 2016, Ethics Director To White House Counsel: "I Am Not Sure Whether You Are Aware That Announcing The Cabinet Without First Coordinating With OGE Is Unprecedented." "The meetings began only after ethics office director Walter Shaub Jr. in November warned McGahn of imminent danger to Trump and his cabinet nominees, writing: "I am not sure whether you are aware that announcing the cabinet without first coordinating with OGE is unprecedented and creates unnecessary risk for both the President-elect and the prospective nominees ... [M]y goal here is to protect the President-elect, the prospective nominees and the executive branch ethics program by preventing real and apparent ethics issues." [Center for Public Integrity, [3/16/17](#)]

- **Ethics Director: "My Goal Here Is To Protect The President-Elect, The Prospective Nominees And The Executive Branch Ethics Program By Preventing Real And Apparent Ethics Issues."** [Center for Public Integrity, [3/16/17](#)]
- **"After Trump Won The White House, Trump's Transition Team All But Ignored The Office Of Government Ethics' Attempts At Communication."** [Center for Public Integrity, [3/16/17](#)]
- **Center For Public Integrity HEADLINE: "Documents: Office Of Government Ethics, Trump Team Reached Détente"** [Center for Public Integrity, [3/16/17](#)]

NBC News HEADLINE: "U.S. Ethics Office Struggled To Gain Access To Trump Team, Emails Show" [NBC News, [11/9/16](#)]

- **"Mr. Trump Has Selected What Would Be The Wealthiest Cabinet In Modern American History, Filled With Millionaires And Billionaires With Complicated Financial Portfolios."** [New York Times, [1/6/17](#)]
- **"The Trump Administration ... Is Behind Where It Should Be In This Process Of Disentangling Conflicts Of Interest."** [New York Times, [1/6/17](#)]

New York Times HEADLINE: "Trump Nominees' Filings Threaten To Overwhelm Federal Ethics Office" [New York Times, [1/6/17](#)]

**As Majority Whip, Senator Cornyn Helped
Gather Votes For The Confirmation Of
Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Despite
Criticism Of Her Financial Disclosures
From Ethics Groups And Other Senators.**

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Cornyn Served As Majority Whip During DeVos's Confirmation, Expressing Confidence To The Media And Downplaying Concerns Raised By Opponents As "Stunt[s]."

Senator Cornyn Supported DeVos For Education Secretary. "Washington needs to relinquish power to states, parents, teachers & local control on K-12 education, which is why I support Betsy DeVos." [Twitter - @JohnCornyn, [2/5/17](#)]

While Serving As Majority Whip, Senator Cornyn Expressed Confidence Betsy DeVos Would Be Confirmed Despite Objections. "Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said Wednesday that they intend to vote against the confirmation of President Trump's education secretary nominee, Betsy DeVos, giving Democrats two of at least three Republican votes they would need to block her appointment. Republican leaders said that despite the defections, they are confident DeVos will be confirmed. 'She'll be confirmed — you can take that to the bank,' said Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.), the majority whip." [Washington Post, [2/1/17](#)]

Senator Cornyn Portrayed Opposition To DeVos As A "Stunt," Saying Senators "Know How This Story Ends" With The Confirmation Of DeVos, And That He Was "Not Sure Who They Are Trying To Impress Other Than Their Dysfunctional Base." "In previous years, a filibuster-proof majority was required to confirm nominees, meaning DeVos endured the most stringent opposition of any successful Cabinet nominee ever. 'They know how this story ends, they know we are going to be successful,' Cornyn said of Senate Democrats. 'With stunts like staying up all night and giving speeches I'm not sure who they are trying to impress other than their dysfunctional base.'" [San Luis Tribune, [2/7/17](#)]

Senator Cornyn Defended DeVos Following Her Confirmation, Saying One Of DeVos' Strengths Was She Was Not Another "Education Bureaucrat" Who Knew All The "Acronyms" And "Arcana." "Vice President Mike Pence on Tuesday cast a historic tie-breaking vote in the Senate to seal Betsy DeVos' confirmation as the next Education secretary, ending an unusually contentious fight over a Cabinet post that has traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support. [...] Majority Whip John Cornyn assailed the unrelenting opposition, saying the fight over DeVos 'is about power and the desire to keep power over public education right here inside the Beltway.' He said one of DeVos' strengths is that she's not just another 'education bureaucrat' who 'knows all the acronyms' and 'arcana.'" [Politico, [2/6/17](#)]

DeVos Faced Numerous Criticisms During Her Confirmation Battle, Including Failure To Disclose Information With Financial Holdings, Conflicts Of Interest Through Her Companies, And Non-Credible Claims.

January 20, 2017: DeVos Reached An Agreement With Ethics Officials To Divest From 102 Companies Cited As Creating A Conflict Of Interest, But Continued To Hold Other Assets With Just A Promise Of "Remaining Vigilant." "Betsy DeVos has agreed to sever ties to several companies that provide services to schools and colleges, as well as a debt collection agency that collects student loans on behalf of the Education Department, according to government ethics paperwork released Friday. DeVos, a Michigan billionaire with a complicated web of financial holdings, reached an agreement on Thursday with government ethics officials that will require her to divest from 102 of those assets that could potentially pose a conflict for her as Education secretary. [...] According to the agreement, the Education Department's top ethics official determined that it wasn't necessary for DeVos to divest from her remaining assets because of the 'remote' chance she'll have to make an official decision that affects them. 'However,' DeVos wrote, 'I will remain vigilant in identifying any particular matters involving the interests of these entities and their holdings ...' DeVos agreed to resign her position from her family's investment firms, RDV Corporation and the Windquest Group, but will keep her financial interest in those companies." [Politico, [1/20/17](#)]

CREW: Former Bush And Obama Ethics Councils Found DeVos' Financial Holdings Created "Significant – And Unresolved" Conflict Of Interest Issues, And She Had Failed To Provide Accurate Information About Her Involvement With Outside Groups. "As former ethics counsels to Presidents Obama and George W. Bush, we've reviewed more than our share of ethics filings for cabinet nominees. Seldom have we seen a worse cabinet-level ethics mess than that presented by Betsy DeVos, President Trump's choice for education secretary. Her extensive financial holdings present significant—and unresolved—conflict of interest issues. She also failed to provide the Senate with accurate information about her involvement with outside organizations. We have regretfully come to the conclusion that these concerns disqualify DeVos for that cabinet position." [The Hill – Norman Eisen and Richard Painter, [2/6/17](#)]

- **CREW: DeVos Had Failed To Provide Requested Supplemental Information On Some Financial Holdings Associated With Trusts Where She Was A Co-Trustee – "A Disqualifier In Itself."** "DeVos reportedly has not provided the detailed supplemental information requested in the Senate questionnaire for some of her holdings, including holdings associated with two of the three trusts for which she will continue to serve as a co-trustee and co-beneficiary with her spouse. If true, her failure to do so is a significant break from past practice and means she has not been fully vetted—a disqualifier in itself." [The Hill – Norman Eisen and Richard Painter, [2/6/17](#)]
- **CREW: DeVos' Claim That She Was Accidentally Listed As A Vice President For A Family Foundation Linked To Anti-LGBT Groups Strained Credulity.** "In her hearing, DeVos also made claims than strain credulity. For example, she was asked under oath about tax filings that listed her as vice president of the Edgar and Elsa Prince Foundation. The Prince Foundation, established by her parents in 1989, reportedly made significant contributions to anti-LGBT groups over the years, including at least \$5 million to conservative religious groups that support conversion therapy. DeVos denied that she had that role at the Prince Foundation, and when confronted in her hearing by Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) with actual forms indicating she was an officer, DeVos attributed it to a 'clerical error'—one that persisted for 17 years. While this foundation position does not present a legally disqualifying conflict, it appears the Senate was not given the truthful information it needs to perform its advise and consent function under the Constitution." [The Hill – Norman Eisen and Richard Painter, [2/6/17](#)]

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA): In The Nomination Process, DeVos Failed To Provide Required Financial Disclosures, As Republicans Rushed The Nomination Through. "Today, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), the Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, kicked off 30 hours of debate on the Senate floor prior to the final vote to confirm President Trump's nominee for Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. [...] Senate Republicans have rushed through the nomination of DeVos even though she did not provide the required financial disclosures and responses to questions by Senator Murray and Senate Democrats about her financial disclosures and support for anti-public education policies. 'Right from the start—it was very clear Republicans intended to jam this nominee through the process as quickly as possible. Corners were cut. Precedents were ignored. Debate was cut off. And reasonable requests and questions were blocked.' [...] And the more that comes out about her failed record, her tangled finances and conflicts of interest, and her lack of understanding or experience—the more the pressure increases on Republicans to put their allegiance to President Trump aside, and stand with their constituents. So I understand why some Republican want to rush this through—but I think it is absolutely wrong, and I know people are paying attention." [Senator Patty Murray – Press Release, [2/3/17](#)]

**During The Confirmation Process For
Attorney General Jeff Sessions,
Senator Cornyn Downplayed Concerns
Over Session's Failure To Disclosure
Certain Assets, And Portrayed
Criticism As Partisan Obstruction.**

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Cornyn Accused Democrats Of Slow-Walking Attorney General Jeff Sessions' Nomination Despite Knowing Him, Calling It A "Waste" Of Valuable Time

John Cornyn Said It Was Important That AG Nominee Jeff Sessions "Be Put In Place On A Timely Basis For The Safety Of Our Communities." "Today on the Senate floor U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) pressed Senate Democrats not to slow-walk the President-elect's nominations for purely political reasons. Excerpts of Sen. Cornyn's remarks are below, and video of his remarks can be found here. [...] 'I mentioned the national security nominations that the President-Elect has indicated, and one of those first ones was Senator Sessions. It's really important that people like Senator Sessions, the Attorney General nominee, be put in place on a timely basis for the safety of our communities.'" [Senator John Cornyn – Press Release, [1/5/17](#)]

- **In The Same Speech, Cornyn Said "Holding Up Confirmations Just For Delay's Sake Is Irresponsible, And It's Dangerous."** "Today on the Senate floor U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) pressed Senate Democrats not to slow-walk the President-elect's nominations for purely political reasons. [...] 'Soon, Mr. President, we'll be considering and confirming men and women nominated by the President-Elect to fill leadership roles throughout the Administration. This is crucial to ensuring a smooth transition from one President to another, and it's important to making sure the next President has the people and resources he needs to help lead our country.' 'Holding up confirmations just for delay's sake is irresponsible, and it's dangerous.'"
- **Video Of Cornyn's Remarks On Jeff Sessions And Claims Of Obstruction Were Available On YouTube.** The video was "Senator Cornyn on Obamacare, Cabinet Nominations." [YouTube – Senator John Cornyn, [1/5/17](#)] (VIDEO)

Cornyn Criticized The "Vilification" Of Jeff Sessions, And Lamented The "Decision To Drag Out Cabinet Nominations As Long As Possible" As A Waste Of Valuable Time That Could Be Spent On Bipartisan Legislation. "Today on the Senate floor, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) condemned Senate Democrats' vilification of the record of U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL), the President's nominee to be Attorney General. [...] 'We know the man. We know what's in his heart. And he is a thoroughly decent and honorable member of the United States Senate, and he will do an outstanding job, I believe, in restoring the reputation of the Department of Justice, as one dedicated to the rule of law above all else.' [...] 'But now the decision to drag out Cabinet nominations as long as possible and to waste valuable time that could be used on other bipartisan legislation, we know our Democratic colleagues have chosen to slow-walk the process, and I think it's a shame, particularly in the case of somebody we all know so well and who is dedicated to the Department of Justice and to restoration of the rule of law.'" [Senator John Cornyn – Press Release, [2/8/17](#)]

- **Video Of Cornyn's Remarks On Claims Of Obstruction And Vilification Of Sessions Were Available On YouTube.** [YouTube – Senator John Cornyn, [2/8/17](#)] (VIDEO)

In A Fox News Interview, Cornyn Said Concerns With Jeff Sessions' Nomination Were "Obviously For Posturing And For Show," As Democrats Simply Wanted To "Slow Down" Trump's Cabinet Nominees. "U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) spoke about today's confirmation hearing for Attorney General nominee Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) during an interview this morning with Fox News' America's Newsroom. Excerpts from the interview are below, and video can be found here. 'A lot of this is obviously for posturing and for show. Democrats have said they want to slow down President-elect Trump's cabinet nominees.'" [Senator John Cornyn – Press Release, [1/10/17](#)]

- **Video Of Cornyn's Fox News Interview Was Available On YouTube.** [YouTube – Senator John Cornyn, [1/10/17](#)] (VIDEO)

Cornyn Downplayed A Senator's Note That Sessions' Records Were Incomplete, Saying She Had Already Served With Him In The Senate

December 2016: Linking To A Washington Examiner Piece, Cornyn Scoffed At A Democratic Senator Claiming She Needed More Time To Review Materials On Jeff Sessions, Arguing She Had Served With Sessions In The Senate. "She has served w him since 1997: Dem senator demands more time to review materials on Sessions" [Twitter - @JohnCornyn, [12/10/16](#)]



- **Washington Examiner: Senator Dianne Feinstein Requested A Delay In Confirmation Hearings For Jeff Sessions On The Basis The Records That Had Been Received Were Incomplete.** "California Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein has asked Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, to delay confirmation hearings for Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, who has been nominated to serve as attorney general in the Trump administration. [...] 'I am more than happy to abide by the precedent of having the time run on when to have a hearing as soon as the production of materials is complete,' Feinstein wrote. 'In order to have a full and fair process, we must have all the documents responsive to the Committee questionnaire.' Feinstein said the materials related to Sessions' record are likely to be 'voluminous' and some turned over so far have been incomplete. 'While I recognize the history of timing between receiving documents and holding a hearing, unfortunately, the records we had received as of 8:10 p.m. Friday night were not complete,' she wrote." [Washington Examiner, [12/10/16](#)]

Sessions Also Faced Criticism For Failure To Disclose Financial Interests In Oil

Alabama Records Showed Sessions Failed To Disclose His Ownership Of Subsurface Rights For Over 600 Acres In The State, As Required By Federal Ethics Rules. “Attorney general nominee Jeff Sessions did not disclose his ownership of oil interests on land in Alabama as required by federal ethics rules, according to an examination of state records and independent ethics lawyers who reviewed the documents. The Alabama records show that Sessions owns subsurface rights to oil and other minerals on more than 600 acres in his home state, some of which are adjacent to a federal wildlife preserve.” [Washington Post, [1/9/17](#)]

**Cornyn Spent Years Claiming
Trump's Tax Returns Were
Not Subject To Congressional Oversight**

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Cornyn Repeatedly Dismissed Efforts Calling For Trump To Show His Tax Returns, Including Blocking A Bill In September 2016 That Would Have Required Tax Transparency From All Presidential Candidates, Before Ultimately Reversing His Stance In 2020.

September 2016: Cornyn Blocked A Bill That Would Have Required Presidential Candidates To Release Their Taxes Only To Call For Similar Measures Four Years Later As He Stood Reelection.

September 2016: Cornyn Blocked The Presidential Tax Transparency Act From Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden, Instead Pushing For A Measure Related To Hillary Clinton's Email Server. "Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn of Texas blocked that effort, and asked to modify Wyden's request to pass the bill to include passage of another measure relating to Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server when she was secretary of State. That bill would prohibit or revoke security clearances for a federal employee who has 'exercised extreme carelessness in the handling of classified information.' Wyden objected to that change and Cornyn objected to the Oregon Democrat's original request to pass the tax return bill." [Roll Call, [9/15/16](#)]

- **In September 2020, Cornyn Reversed His Position, Saying All Presidential Candidates Should Be Required To Release Their Tax Returns.** "U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said Tuesday that all candidates for president should be required to release their tax returns and that President Donald Trump was now suffering the consequences for failing to do so in the 2016 campaign." [El Paso Times, [9/30/20](#)]

April 2019: Cornyn Questioned Why Democrats Were "Focused On [Trump's] Tax Returns From 6 Years Ago When They Should Be Focused On The Crisis At Our Border."

Cornyn, Called A Congressman Who Asked For Trump's Tax Returns A "Partisan Hack": "Why Are Democrats Focused On President Donald J. Trump's Tax Returns From 6 Years Ago When They Should Be Focused On The Crisis At Our Border?" [Facebook, John Cornyn, [4/7/19](#)]

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[Facebook, John Cornyn, [4/7/19](#)]

May 2019: Cornyn Said Presidential Tax Returns Were Not A “Legitimate Scope Of Oversight” For Congress.

May 2019, Cornyn: “This Is Not About Trying To Look At The President’s Tax Returns. That’s Really Not A Legitimate Scope Of Oversight.” [Yahoo! Sports, [5/22/19](#)] (VIDEO)

- **Fox News HEADLINE: “Sen. John Cornyn Says President Trump’s Tax Returns Are Not Within Legitimate Scope Of Congressional Oversight”** [Yahoo! Sports, [5/22/19](#)]