



**Ranking Member Blunt's Opening Statement
Joint Full Committee Hearing
Examining the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol, Part II**

Thanks to Chairman Peters and Chairwoman Klobuchar. I join my good friend Senator Portman with my appreciation for where we've headed with this so far and my hope that we continue to look at the facts and see where the facts lead us in as much of a non-partisan way as you can do in an institution like the United States Senate. I'm glad to join my colleagues for today's hearing to learn more about the decisions and the actions of federal agencies on January 6th.

Last week's hearing with the Chief of the Metropolitan Police, the former Chief of the Capitol Police and the former Sergeants at Arms for the House and Senate left me with more questions than answers. The witnesses could not agree on something as basic as a timeline. I believe we learned that the structure and the practices of the Capitol Police Board, which I have previously questioned, delayed the response and proved to be ill-suited for the emergency on the 6th.

Today I hope to learn if the failures of Capitol security leaders were compounded by officials at the Department of Defense who did not act quickly enough or take the situation seriously enough. I also hope to explore if the failure to alert the leadership of the U.S. Capitol Police or the Metropolitan Police Department of the FBI's "Norfolk Situational Information Report", which warned of "war" at the Capitol—and I understand that the information was raw and unverified—should make us consider changes in the information sharing process and structure.

All of the agencies participating in these hearings, at the most fundamental level, exist to uphold and protect the rights of Americans and to protect our form of government. January 6th revealed weaknesses in our intelligence agencies, our law enforcement agencies, and elements of our defense agencies. It would be a mistake for the leadership of these agencies to think this was only a failure of USCP leadership or the Capitol Police Board.

I look forward to the testimony of our witnesses.

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