

Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA)

From: Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA)
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 4:30 PM
To: Schaumburg, Sara (Ossoff)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: This week's Hearing

Sorry didn't realize he hadn't answered.

From: Schaumburg, Sara (Ossoff (b) (6))
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA (b) (6))
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: This week's Hearing

Hi Helaine,

Any word from Rayshon? Just want to confirm the AAG is comfortable with the VRAA line of questioning, particularly that she would express support for the election worker protection bill and would be able to say that preclearance could have helped block the GA law.

Thanks!

--
Sara Schaumburg | General Counsel
Office of Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA)
455 Russell Senate Office Building
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From: "Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA)" (b) (6)
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 at 6:46 PM
To: Sara Schaumburg (b) (6)
Cc: "Adams, Stan (Ossoff)" (b) (6)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: This week's Hearing

Thanks so much. I'll check with Rayshon again in the VRAA question.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 4, 2021, at 6:43 PM, Schaumburg, Sara (Ossoff (b) (6)) wrote:

Hi Helaine just touching base to see if you had any feedback on the VRAA questions.

I also wanted to share the questions we've drafted for tomorrow's VAWA hearing, which I think

are very straightforward:

- How has VAWA helped bring justice to American Indian and Alaska Native women, and what enhancements are needed to strengthen protections and build on the success of the VAWA 2013 reauthorization for implementing tribes?
- Can you explain how the housing grants and protections authorized by VAWA could help ensure that all individuals who seek help get the housing and other supports and services they need?

Thanks!

--

Sara Schaumburg | General Counsel

Office of Senator Jon Ossoff (D-GA)

455 Russell Senate Office Building

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[<image003.png>](#)

From: Sara Schaumburg (b) (6)
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 6:50 PM
To: "Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA)" (b) (6)
Cc: "Adams, Stan (Ossoff)" (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: This week's Hearing

Hi Helaine -

Yes, he's planning to attend all three!

On Voting Rights, I shared one possible question with Rayshon but copying that and another possible line of questioning below. The first question has to do with voter intimidation and helping to lay the groundwork for Title II of the bill, which amends § 245 and expands protections for election workers and polling places. This is language that was incorporated at DOJ's request and we are dropping a standalone bill on it tomorrow (the Election Worker and Polling Place Protection Act). The second line of questioning goes through specific aspects of SB 202 and asks whether the VRAA might have helped block those off at the pass. Please let me know if you think AAG Clarke would have any trouble answering those (as in, whether it'd be hard for her to give a straight "yes" to those and I can redirect them to someone on the second panel.)

On VAWA, I think he's likely to focus on the need for expanding protections for Native American women, but I haven't drafted those yet.

He's currently planning to attend the panel with Kanter, as well. My colleague, Stan, is point on that one. Looping him here.

##

Question to AAG Clarke re: Need for JLVRAA

Wind-up: Mitch McConnell says the John Lewis voting rights bill is quote “unnecessary.” According to him, it’s already illegal to discriminate in voting based on race, so no one’s voting rights are threatened. [See TAB F]

Yet Georgia just recently passed a law restricting voting access that particularly targets voting by mail. These restrictions were adopted right after the November 2020 election, where, incidentally, voters of color relied on absentee ballots at unprecedented levels and in the case of Black and Asian voters - at higher rates than White voters.

Questions:

- That law, for example, drastically reduces the availability of ballot dropboxes, which voters of color relied on heavily as a safe and convenient way to return ballots. **Could the John Lewis bill have kept Georgia from drastically limiting dropbox availability?**
- The Georgia law also makes it harder for voters to get absentee ballots by making it illegal for election officials to mail out absentee ballot applications to all voters. **Could the John Lewis bill have kept Georgia from making it harder for voters to get absentee ballots?**
- **Assistant Attorney General Clarke, is Senator McConnell right? If it’s already illegal to discriminate in voting, is this whole bill “unnecessary”?**

###

Question to AAG Clarke re: Election Worker and Polling Place Protection Act

Wind up: Fueled by the Big Lie, threats against election workers skyrocketed during the 2020 election. In Georgia, election workers and their families were harassed and targeted by death threats. Polling places around the state received bomb threats from Atlanta, to Jackson and Franklin counties in the Northeast, to Floyd in the northwest, and Bulloch in the south.

Election workers are vital to free and fair elections. That is why, earlier this week, I introduced legislation to expand and strengthen protections for election workers, as well polling places and other election infrastructure, which is included in the John Lewis bill.

Question: Do you expect these threats to continue to grow and why is it important to expand current protections in the law?

[**Expected answer:** It’s critical that the law protects the full complement of people involved in ensuring elections are run smoothly. That means expanding current protections for election officials to make sure they law also protects their families, volunteer election workers, and the people who set up and maintain voting equipment. It also means protecting polling places and other infrastructure involved in voting, like tabulation centers. That’s why inclusion of your legislation a critical part of the John Lewis bill.]

--

Sara Schaumburg | General Counsel

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<<https://twitter.com/SenOssoff>>

On 10/3/21, 3:39 PM, "Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA) (b) (6)" wrote:

Sara,

Just checking in to see if you know if your boss is planning to come to the three SJC hearings with DOJ witnesses this week: VAWA, Antitrust nominee, and Voting Rights, and what questions he might ask if he does come. We'd appreciate any intel you might have.

Thanks so much,

Helaine

Helaine Greenfeld
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs
(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

Schaumburg, Sara (Ossoff)

From: Schaumburg, Sara (Ossoff)
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 6:27 PM
To: Greenfeld, Helaine A. (OLA)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hearing Qs

Hi Helaine,

Wanted to share some draft questions that Sen. Ossoff may (or may not) raise at Wednesday's hearing. We'll all find out in real time...

He obviously won't get to all of these but sharing the full draft universe just in case. Please let me know if anything causes heartburn. I'm particularly curious if you think the phrasing of the second Voting Rights wind-up/question could be unhelpful in any way. Always happy to hop on the phone. Cell (b) (6).

Best,
Sara

PRISON REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

Question to Attorney General re: prison security cameras

Wind up: Last week, the Senate passed legislation that I introduced along with Ranking Member Grassley and Chairman Durbin the *Prison Camera Reform Act* to reduce violence and civil rights abuses in prisons by requiring an overhaul of federal prisons' security camera system. As the Justice Department's Inspector General recognized in its report on this issue, outdated and unreliable cameras threaten the safety and wellbeing of incarcerated people as well as employees and the general public.

Question: Do you agree that reforming the federal prisons' security camera systems is a critically important safety and civil rights issue?

Follow-up: Will you commit to adhering to the requirements laid out in this bill and to prioritizing its implementation should it become law?

###

Question to Attorney General Garland re: BOP staffing shortages

Wind up: The Federal Bureau of Prisons is responsible for the custody and care of more than 130,000 incarcerated people. Yet chronic staffing shortages undermine the agency's ability to ensure their safety, as well as that of the prison staff and the general public.

Staffing shortages also pose a major obstacle to implementing a range of much needed prison reform initiatives. Congress can require good security camera systems, but you need staff to monitor those cameras and respond. Congress can as has - passed laws requiring critically important programming and

activities to help reduce recidivism, but you need the teachers and staff to run those programs.

Earlier this year, the Government Accountability Office a nonpartisan, independent government watchdog concluded that BOP lacks a reliable method for calculating staffing levels and assessing the impact of staffing shortages, as well as the use of overtime and augmentation, on employees and incarcerated people. This impedes the agency's -- and Congress's - ability to assess the problem and address workforce gaps.

BOP agreed with this assessment and hired a contractor to assist the agency in revising its approach.

Question: Can you provide this committee a brief update on the status of this effort?

Follow-up: Will you commit to prioritizing the implementation of these recommendations and working with my office to ensure adequate staffing that is vital to a safe prison environment and the success of prison reform efforts?

###

VOTING RIGHTS

Question to Attorney General Garland re: *Right to Vote Act*

Question: Do you agree that voters should be able to challenge laws that restrict or diminish voting access in cases when the state fails to provide a legitimate justification for such a restriction?

Follow up: I introduced the *Right to Vote Act*, which establishes the first-ever affirmative right to vote in federal statute. It then allows voters to enforce that right by challenging laws that substantially impair or diminish voting access. Is it fair to say that you support passage of such a bill?

###

Question to Attorney General Garland re: *Voting Rights Act*

Wind up: The Justice Department's primary tool for challenging discriminatory voting laws is to bring a lawsuit under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. That's exactly what it did in Georgia earlier this year when it sued the state over its implementation of a voting law, SB 202, that discriminated against Black and Brown voters. Yet the Supreme Court recently undermined that law in its *Brnovich* decision, making it extraordinarily difficult to establish that a violation has occurred.

Question: What should Congress do to restore Section 2 and ensure that it is able to fulfill the Constitution's guarantee that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged based on race?

###

SURVEILLANCE

Question to Attorney General Garland re: Notice of Electronic Surveillance