

Gaetz Says McCarthy Has ‘No Real Intention’ To Impeach Biden

By Nick Visser | HUFFPOST

(HUFFPOST) - Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) slammed House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) on Wednesday, saying his colleague was “never” going to impeach President Joe Biden, accusing the Republican leader of gaslighting members of his party.

“He’s throwing impeachment out like an ill-cast lure with no real intention to follow through,” Gaetz said of the speaker in an interview with MSNBC’s Ari Melber. “If you were really serious, you would subpoena Hunter Biden, get answers. They’re not serious. And that’s why you see this failure theater in the absence of real accountability.”

McCarthy said Tuesday he was unilaterally directing House committees to launch an impeachment inquiry into the president, saying Republicans had uncovered “serious and credible allegations” that “paint a picture of a culture of corruption” in the White House. Those claims center on millions of dollars in payments made by foreign nationals to the president’s son, Hunter Biden, including during

years when Joe Biden was serving as vice president.

The allegations, however, rely on exaggerations pushed by a far-right faction in the Republican Party that includes Gaetz.

The White House has rejected the claims as “unprecedented” and “unfounded,” adding that “in virtually all cases, [the claims] have been actively disproven.”

“They have turned up no evidence,” White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said this week. “This is a political stunt.”

Despite McCarthy’s announcement, Gaetz called the speaker’s impeachment plans a “baby step,” dismissing the inquiry Wednesday as “the same illusion and the same mirage” he’s used before.

McCarthy has responded to his colleague’s rhetoric with his own attacks, saying Gaetz was “upset about an ethics complaint.” The speaker was referencing an ongoing House Ethics Committee investigation into allegations Gaetz engaged in sexual misconduct and drug use.

Federal judge again declares that DACA is illegal with issue likely to be decided by Supreme Court

by JUAN A. LOZANO | AP



Rally in support of DACA, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, June 15, 2022. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File) ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON (AP) — While a federal judge on Wednesday declared illegal a revised version of a federal policy that prevents the deportation of hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, he declined to order an immediate end to the program and the protections it offers to recipients.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen agreed with Texas and eight other states suing to stop the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program. The judge’s ruling was ultimately expected to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, sending the program’s fate before the high court for a third time.

“While sympathetic to the predicament of DACA recipients and their families, this Court has expressed its concerns about the legality of the program for some time,” Hanen wrote in his 40-page ruling. “The solution for these deficiencies lies with the legislature, not the executive or judicial branches. Congress, for any number of reasons, has decided not to pass DACA-like legislation ... The Executive Branch cannot usurp the power bestowed on Congress by the Constitution — even to fill a void.”

Hanen’s order extended the current injunction that had been in place against DACA, which barred the government from approving any new applications, but left the program intact for existing recipients during the on-going legal review.

Hanen also declined a request by the states to order the program’s end within two years. Hanen said his order does not require the federal government to take any actions against DACA recipients, who are known as “Dreamers.”

Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, or MALDEF, which is representing DACA recipients in the lawsuit, said it will ultimately be up to higher courts, including the Supreme Court, to rule on DACA’s legality and whether Texas proved it had been harmed by the program.

“Judge Hanen has consistently erred in resolving both of these issues, and today’s ruling is more of the same flawed analysis. We look forward to continuing to defend the lawful and much-needed DACA program on review in higher courts,” Saenz said.

The Biden administration criticized the judge’s ruling.

“We are deeply disappointed in today’s DACA ruling from the District Court in Southern Texas,” press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement Wednesday night. “... As we have long maintained, we disagree with the District Court’s conclusion that DACA is unlawful, and will continue to defend this critical policy from legal challenges. While we do so, consistent with the court’s order, DHS will continue to process renewals for current DACA recipients and DHS (the Department of Homeland Security) may continue to accept DACA applications.”

The Texas Attorney General’s Office, which represented the states in the lawsuit, and the U.S. Department of Justice, which represented the federal government, didn’t immediately return emails or calls seeking

comment.

The states have argued the Obama administration didn’t have the authority to first create the program in 2012 because it circumvented Congress.

In 2021, Hanen had declared the program illegal, ruling it had not been subject to public notice and comment periods required under the federal Administrative Procedures Act.

The Biden administration tried to satisfy Hanen’s concerns with a new version of DACA that took effect in October 2022 and was subject to public comments as part of a formal rule-making process.

But Hanen, who was appointed by then-President George W. Bush in 2002, ruled the updated version of DACA was still illegal as the Biden administration’s new version was essentially the same as the old version, started under the Obama administration. Hanen had previously said DACA was unconstitutional.

Hanen also had previously ruled the states had standing to file their lawsuit because they had been harmed by the program.

The states have claimed they incur hundreds of millions of dollars in health care, education and other costs when immigrants are allowed to remain in the country illegally. The states that sued are Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, West Virginia, Kansas and Mississippi.

Those defending the program — the federal government, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the state of New Jersey — had argued the states failed to present evidence that any of the costs they allege they have incurred have been tied to DACA recipients. They also argued Congress has given the Department of Homeland Security the legal authority to set immigration enforcement policies.

There were 578,680 people enrolled in DACA at the end of March, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The program has faced a roller coaster of court challenges over the years.

In 2016, the Supreme Court deadlocked 4-4 over an expanded DACA and a version of the program for parents of DACA recipients. In 2020, the high court ruled 5-4 that the Trump administration improperly ended DACA, allowing it to stay in place.

In 2022, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld Hanen’s earlier ruling declaring DACA illegal, but sent the case back to him to review changes made to the program by the Biden administration.

President Joe Biden and advocacy groups have called on Congress to pass permanent protections for “dreamers.” Congress has failed multiple times to pass proposals called the DREAM Act to protect DACA recipients.

“We continue to urge Congress and President Biden to create permanent solutions for all immigrants to ensure none are left in the perilous road DACA has been on for the past decade,” Veronica Garcia, an attorney with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, an advocacy organization, said in a statement.

AGE of Central Texas Hosting Free “Medicare 101” Caregiving Online Seminar on October 7th



(AUSTIN, TX) - AGE of Central Texas will host the free online caregiver support seminar exploring “Medicare 101” on Saturday, October 7th. Part of the on-going workshop series to help family members effectively care for an older adult, the free virtual seminar will be held online from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Benefits counselors from the Area Agency on Aging of the Capital Area will discuss what caregivers need to know about Medicare and Medicaid, the basic differences between the two programs, and what changes are expected for 2024 prior to Open Enrollment, which runs October 15th through December 7th. The presentation is designed to help those who are newly eligible for Medicare benefits, family caregivers assisting older adult family members change plans or sign up for Medicare, and people who would like a basic understanding of Medicare.

Registration for the conference is free, but space is limited. Participants can register by calling (512) 600-9275, or online at <http://www.TinyURL.com/AGEOctober2023>.

For more information on the programs and resources provided by AGE of Central Texas, visit www.AGEofCentralTX.org or call (512) 451-4611.

Fain on impending ‘Big Three’ strike: ‘The UAW doesn’t back down from a fight’

BY OLAFIMIHAN OSHIN | THE HILL



(THE HILL) - Shawn Fain, the president of the United Auto Workers union (UAW), said that the impending “Big Three” strike will prove the union doesn’t “back down from a fight” with large corporations.

During a Facebook livestream Wednesday, Fain informed union members to support their union leadership for direction and clarity in the duration of the striking process, mentioning several UAW-affiliated unions in other business sectors launching their own strikes.

“They’re still standing strong in their fight. They’re going to win fair pay quality time with their families and decent sick leave that they deserve,” Fain said during the livestream.

“As all these members will tell you, the UAW doesn’t back down from a fight. We’re willing to do what’s necessary to win justice by any means necessary.”

Fain also talked during the livestream about the “fear tactics” corporations and media outlets have used recently, noting how they argue that a potential union strike would greatly affect the U.S. economy.

“They pretend that the sky will fall if we get our fair share of the quarter of a trillion dollars, the big three has made over the past decade, but it’s not just the economy when they talk about that, and they say well wreck the economy. It’s not the economy that will wreck. It’s their economy,” Fain added.

Union members are seeking higher pay wages, pensions and more job security in their latest negotiations, as the Biden administration remained confident Monday that a strike could be averted before the Thursday deadline.