Joe Biden could face SUBPOENA in impeachment inquiry as Republicans get MORE power to seek evidence

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- The House impeachment inquiry grants enhanced subpoena powers
- Could end in President Joe Biden or his son Hunter Biden being called to testify
- Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced Tuesday the impeachment inquiry, which is the first step in the congressional process to remove a President from office

President <u>Joe Biden</u> and his son Hunter may end up testifying before House investigators considering the enhanced subpoena power granted through opening an impeachment inquiry.

House Speaker <u>Kevin McCarthy</u> announced on Tuesday as the lower chamber reconvened after their August recess that <u>he is officially</u> <u>launching an impeachment inquiry against Biden</u> after months of pressure from MAGA Republicans.

The shocking statement accused Biden of an 'abuse of power' and involvement in a 'culture of corruption' regarding his 53-year-old son's foreign business deals.

An inquiry is the first step in the impeachment process – but it grants the House much more power to collect evidence for potential articles of impeachment against an official.

It is a massive step with many pitfalls, including infuriating Republican moderates and many <u>GOP</u> senators, who are skeptical of impeachment. The inquiry will also cause further friction with the <u>White House</u> as budget negotiations are underway – and <u>Congress</u> faces a September 30 deadline to fund the government before a shutdown.



The House impeachment inquiry grants enhanced subpoena powers, which could result in them calling President Joe Biden or his son Hunter Biden to testify

McCarthy calls for formal impeachment of President Biden



McCarthy, in announcing the inquiry, used his unilateral power as Speaker to begin the impeachment process. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) did the same when she was speaker to launch both impeachments against Donald Trump.

'I do not make this decision lightly,' McCarthy said Tuesday.

'I would encourage the President and his team to fully cooperate with this investigation,' he added. 'We are committed to getting the answers for the American public. Nothing more, nothing less. We will go wherever the evidence takes us.'

Republicans claim Biden and his family made millions off shell companies the President's son Hunter Biden formed when his father was vice president. Hunter had business deals with an energy company in the Ukraine, received a discounted stake in a private-equity firm in China, and conducted consulting for a Romanian real-estate magnate.

The GOP also claims Biden sat in on at least 24 calls with Hunter's business partners and was referred to as 'the big guy' by Hunter's business associates.

Biden has denied any involvement in his son's business dealings – foreign or otherwise. But Republicans claim at least a dozen of the President's family members could be involved in a scheme to financially benefit from

Biden's position.

House investigators are expected to issue subpoenas for the bank records of the president and his family, which could further bolster the argument for hearing testimony from Joe and Hunter Biden.

An inquiry allows the House to hold public hearings as well as subpoena bank records and witnesses, including the President and his son.

The House Judiciary Committee will consider the evidence collected and use it to prepare articles of impeachment – or charges – against the President. If a majority of the committee members vote to adopt the articles, they are sent to the House floor for a vote.

If the full House votes in favor of the articles by a simple majority, Biden will be impeached. But the Senate will then need to hold a trial to decide if they will vote for impeachment, as well.

In the upper chamber, two-thirds must agree to impeach for a President to be convicted and removed from office.

'House Republicans have uncovered serious and credible allegations into President Biden's conduct,' McCarthy said on Tuesday, speaking at the Capitol. 'Taken together these allegations paint a picture of a culture of corruption.'

'These are allegations of abuse of power, obstruction and corruption. And they warrant further investigation by the House of Representatives. That's why today I am directing our House committee to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden,' he noted.



House Speaker Kevin McCarthy announced on Tuesday the impeachment inquiry, which is the first step in the congressional process to attempt to remove a President from office

'This logical next step will give our committees the full power to gather all the facts and answers for the American public. That's exactly what we want to know the answers.'

McCarthy is under intense pressure from the conservative wing of his party to make such a move, including threats from some of his own GOP lawmakers to remove him from the speakership.

The White House has repeatedly denied Biden has conducted any wrongdoing. The president himself has said he was not involved with any of Hunter's business deals.

Some of Hunter's former associates, however, have testified that Joe Biden spoke to Hunter's business associates but the president's

defenders say it was quick conversation and merely cordial, not related to any dealmaking. But McCarthy insisted Biden was involved.

'Eye witnesses have testified that the President joined on multiple phone calls, and had multiple interactions, dinners, resulted in cars and millions of dollars into his son's and his son's business partners,' he said.

It's estimated Hunter raked in \$40 million through 20 shell companies and fake accounts created while Joe Biden was vice president, at the same time the elder Biden was joining Hunter's business calls and stopping by at lavish dinners.

The White House called McCarthy's move 'extreme politics.'

'House Republicans have been investigating the President for 9 months, and they've turned up no evidence of wrongdoing,' White House spokesperson for oversight and investigations Ian Sams said in a statement. '[McCarthy] vowed to hold a vote to open impeachment, now he flip flopped because he doesn't have support. This is extreme politics at its worst.'

The Speaker justified his decision, claiming Biden's family got special treatment from his own administration. Meanwhile, House Republicans have already demanded records from the Justice, State and Treasury Departments as part of their probe.

Hunter is under investigation by a special counsel and faced an IRS investigation about his taxes. But the President's son has denied any wrongdoing.

House Republicans have been investigating the president and his family since they took control of the lower chamber in January.

Republican Rep. James Comer (Ky.), chairman of the Oversight Committee, claims there could be upwards of 12 Biden family members who benefitted from influence peddling by the president and Hunter.

While most names have not yet been revealed, Comer previously said that suspicious activity reports (SARs) reviewed by Republicans on the panel have found that President Biden's brother Jim Biden and his son Beau's widow Hallie Biden benefited from foreign business deals.

Members of the Biden family could get dragged into the impeachment probe.

Comer, Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), and Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith (R-Mo.) will lead the probe.

Their committees have investigated allegations that Hunter Biden leveraged his father's vice presidency to secure foreign business deals that made the family a mint.

Hunter is already facing legal issues. Federal prosecutors plan to indict Hunter on illegal gun charges that have a maximum sentence of 10 years in jail by the end of September.

David Weiss, a U.S. attorney appointed by then-President Donald Trump, has been leading the Justice Department probe into the first son. He was given special counsel status last month amid concerns from Republicans that Weiss didn't have the authority to conduct a proper investigation.

An impeachment inquiry could mean Hunter is brought before Congress to answer questions.