

## Pam Bondi's Absence Raises Questions Amid Epstein Report Fallout

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United States Attorney General Pam Bondi's unexpected absence from a prominent summit on human trafficking has stirred fresh criticism, as reports suggest renewed scrutiny over her handling of files linked to the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and President Donald Trump.

Bondi was scheduled to attend the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) Summit Against Human Trafficking in Washington, D.C., but a medical issue prevented her from participating. In a statement read by Acting Assistant Attorney General Matthew Galeotti, Bondi explained she was recovering from a torn cornea and expressed regret at missing the event, calling the summit's mission "critical."

The timing of her absence coincided with a new report by The Wall Street Journal stating that Bondi informed Trump in May that his name appears repeatedly in Department of Justice records related to Epstein. This follows previous claims made by the publication that Trump had sent Epstein a suggestive birthday card, an allegation the president strongly denies. White House Communications Director Steven Cheung dismissed the claims, calling them "a continuation of fake news stories pushed by Democrats and the liberal media."

Also on the same day, the U.S. House Oversight Committee issued subpoenas for Epstein's case files and for Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's longtime associate, currently serving a sentence for sex trafficking. Meanwhile, federal judges in New York and Florida rejected motions to unseal grand jury transcripts from earlier investigations involving Epstein and his associates.

Bondi, who has been under increasing pressure from conservative voices, is facing backlash from within the "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) movement. Critics, including conservative commentator Liz Wheeler, have voiced frustration with what they perceive as the mishandling of sensitive documents and a lack of transparency. "It's time to rectify this issue," Wheeler said, arguing that Bondi's actions have damaged trust among Trump's core base. "We associate the Epstein files now with the question of, are we going to get the justice we voted for?"

Former Congressman Joe Walsh also weighed in via social media, saying Bondi has functioned more like Trump's personal attorney than a public servant, writing, "We don't have an Attorney General. We haven't had one for the past six months."

The situation has heightened concern among many Americans who feel the justice system is not holding powerful individuals accountable. Despite Bondi's medical excuse, the absence, combined with unfolding revelations, has only intensified calls for clarity, accountability, and action. Whether those demands will be met remains to be seen, but what is clear is that trust in leadership is once again under strain.

