

U.S. Congresswoman Emily Randall

Palm Beach Epstein Hearing

05/12/2026

Rep. Randall: Thank you, Mr. Ranking Member and thank you to each of you for being here today. I especially want to thank those of you who shared your stories about surviving unimaginable abuse. We thank you for your immense bravery, which we do over and over again, but also for your willingness to relive your trauma in pursuit of justice.

I know you've waited far too long and are still waiting. You are seen and heard by every member of Congress in this room, and we will make sure that your stories are not ignored.

Former Attorney General Bondi literally kept her back turned away from a room full of survivors. We've seen the photo. We are here to do the opposite. We are here to walk alongside you and to shine a light on the stories that you have shared over and over. We'll keep fighting for truth, for transparency, and an end to this shameless DOJ cover-up of all the information relating to the heinous crimes of this Epstein case.

DOJ's document productions to date have released very little new information about Epstein's co-conspirators. In fact we know there are more than 2.5 million documents still hidden. But unfortunately, as we have heard today, recent releases have exposed private and personal identifying information of survivors.

DOJ has created serious risk to safety for survivors and published names and photographs, some of them very explicit. Survivors have also shared with the committee that in multiple instances, as we heard again today, loved ones didn't know that you had been abused by Epstein until that information was released publicly.

Every oversight Democrat sent Pam Bondi a letter back in February to express alarm at DOJ for publishing survivor names and photographs — thousands of times — while taking special care to redact information that could be crucial for bringing justice and holding perpetrators of abuse accountable.

The sheer amount of personal identifiable information released after survivors got assurances from DOJ that they would be protected raises the question of whether this is just incompetence or, and far more likely, deliberate witness intimidation.

Ms. Bensky, you have spoken about this, about the harm of DOJ's sloppy Epstein file release that has caused you and other survivors, you spoke about your own name being released despite repeated requests to redact it. Will you share again for us, for the record, what that experience meant to you and other survivors to have your information be exposed?

Ms. Bensky: Yeah, I mean, I am public. That's a choice that I made, but never in my life did I expect for anybody to read intimate details of abuse. To me, it's always been about protecting others. And, you know, unfortunately, I have friends in this story. And to see somebody's name out there who has worked so hard to move past this in life is something that sends a shockwave through your body.

It hits you like reading your own name in the file first. Just like, you know, I went into the files thinking I would have to look pretty hard to find things. Type my last name in and everything came up, right? And it's like, there's like a hot flash. Right? It hits you sort of like a bullet to the chest where you're like, "Oh my God", it's that feeling of like that PTSD is real, right? So the PTSD of the trauma that I endured definitely came back and then you're reading on, and then you see more. And you see survivors being outed. A survivor that I had said, you know, 'don't ever worry, you'll always be a Jane Doe.' To feel the impact of that is something that I will carry forever.

Rep. Randall: I'm sorry. I feel like you deserve an apology from your government. You know, as Democratic members of Congress, we are here to continue to work with you. But I also know that we absolutely have to fight for better. We have to fight to pass Virginia's law.

I know Congresswoman Frankel wanted us to share that she's also been working on the Courtney Wild Crime Victims' Rights Reform Act to ensure that those rights that you are owed are actually upheld, that we work with survivors to inform you about any prosecutorial agreements to ensure that folks know what rights you are awarded and deserved.

And we will continue to investigate and to fight for all of you, but also for every survivor and every young person who is being victimized around the world. Thank you. I yield back.