

Trump Says Dr. Fauci Will Testify in the Senate, but Not the House

President Trump has stated that Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the nation's top infectious disease expert, will be allowed to testify before the Senate next week, but not the House. Trump said he was barring Fauci from doing so before a House subcommittee because the hearing was "a setup." Last week, Dr. Fauci was also blocked from testifying in front of the House on the issue of coronavirus testing spending, and the Trump administration has issued new guidelines preventing task force members from appearing before Congressional panels this month unless White House chief of staff Mark Meadows grants permission. Dr. Fauci, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Robert Redfield, and other experts are scheduled to testify in the Senate next week.

In addition to calling the House "a setup" when making the announcement, Trump told reporters on Tuesday that he does not want officials appearing before House Democrats because "The House is a bunch of Trump haters." He also complained about a House oversight committee that was set up to review the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic, pointing out that some of his biggest critics were on the panel including Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). Overall, Trump's comments are problematic because they signal partisanship and a willingness to allow officials like Dr. Fauci to appear before the Republican-controlled Senate, but not the Democratic-controlled House.