

EXHIBIT A-4: Johnson Meet the Press Executive Coordination Admission July 27, 2025

1. **Newscaster:** Welcome back. Joining me now is House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana. Speaker Johnson, welcome back to Meet the Press.
2. **Johnson:** Great to be with you.
3. **Newscaster:** Well, it is great to have you. You just heard my conversation with Congressman Massey, Congressman Kana, so let me. Start off with this question, why did you adjourn the house early and does it run the risk of feeding the perception that there's something to hide in the Epstein matter?
4. **Johnson:** Uh, look, these are all important questions. Let me be absolutely clear as we have been from the very beginning house, Republicans insist upon the release. Of all credible evidence and information related to Epstein in any way, but we are also insisting upon the protection of innocent victims, and our concern is that the Massey and Kana discharge petition is reckless in the way that it is drafted and presented. It does not adequately. Include those protections and I can explain all the details of that. What the important thing on the timing to answer that question first is that we did not do anything to end the, the term of Congress early. The, the Massey Conna discharge petition was filed so that it would not ripen until a day after Congress had previously been scheduled for almost a year to be outta session and in the district work period for August and that is the timing of it. So what we did do this week. Is end the chaos in the rules committee because the Democrats are trying to use this in a shameless manner for political pur purposes. Quite obviously, they hijack the rules committee and they tried to turn it into an Epstein hearing. That's not what the rules committee is about, so that's why the, uh, floor votes ended on Wednesday, set of Thursday.
5. **Johnson:** But the work of Congress continues and, and the schedule of Congress was published. Well over a year ago, December of 2024. So none of this was a surprise, and Conna and Massey could have brought their discharge petition a day earlier and prevented that, or as noted earlier, anytime over the last four years, they did not do it during the Biden administration and that's an important point. Uh, for everybody to note.
6. **Newscaster:** but Mr. Speaker, it's not just Republicans supporting this. It's uh, 11, not just Democrats, it's 11 Republicans as well. Let me just ask you, because I hear you saying that yes, the files should be made public while protecting the victims. Let me just ask you though, should all of the files related to Jeffrey Epstein be released and made public?
7. **Johnson:** Yes, I agree with President Trump, with the Department of Justice, with the FBI, that you need all credible evidence and information out there. That word credible is important and why? Because you have to protect. Innocent people's names and reputations, whose names might be, as you noted at the outset of the program, intertwined into all these files. This has been a long legal process. There's a reason, for example, that grand jury materials are protected under the Federal Rules of criminal, uh, procedure because they're, they're not to be put out. See, the, the Massey and Kana discharge petition would require the release. They would require the DOJ and FBI to release information that they know is false - That is based on lies and rumors and, and, and was not even credible enough to be entered into the court proceedings, and that would be a dangerous thing.
8. **Johnson:** Our main concern here though is the protection of the innocent victims. I mean, the, the, these are minors in many cases who are subjected to unspeakable crimes, abject evil. They've already suffered great harm. We do not name them, need their names being unmasked, the the Massey. And the, the kana discharge petition does not have adequate protections, for example, uh, in the way that it was drafted. They cite that they don't want child abuse, uh, sex abuse information, uh, uncovered, but they cite the wrong, uh, provision of the federal code,

and so it makes it unworkable. It, it, it requires the DOJ to release grand jury testimony. They are prohibited by law from doing so, so it is not the right approach. There is another approach out there. The house Republicans on the rules committee have a resolution that is well drafted, that is thoughtfully drafted by lawyers that would make this workable. That's the approach we have to protect the innocent. We'll do it at all costs.

9. **Newscaster:** They, they do say that they want victims' names redacted though, just to be clear, let me move on to Ghislaine Maxwell, the Deputy Attorney General.
10. **Johnson:** Yes. But their language doesn't adequately predict produ produce that. Yes. Go ahead.
11. **Newscaster:** Okay. Yeah. Let me move on to, uh, Ghislaine Maxwell. As, as you know, Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Attorney General's. Spent two days interviewing, uh, her. She, of course, has been convicted of grooming, recruiting, abusing young teenage girls, along with Jeffrey Epstein. Mr. Speaker Maxwell's attorney said she answered all questions honestly and truthfully, but do you think that Ghislaine Maxwell can be trusted?
12. **Johnson:** Well, I mean, look, it's a good question. I hope so. I, I hope that she would want to come clean. We certainly are interested in knowing everything that she knows. And as you'll note, in our house, Republican majority, we're working towards that. Chairman Comer and our oversight committee, uh, has already issued their own subpoena. They, they want to bring in, uh, Ghislaine Maxwell as well. I hope she's telling the truth. She is convicted. She is serving a 20 year sentence for child sex trafficking and so, uh, her character is in some question, but if she wants to come clean now, that would be a great service to the country and we'd like to know every single bit of information that she has. I certainly hope she's telling the truth.
13. **Newscaster:** Well listen, this week the President Trump didn't rule out a pardon for Ghislaine Maxwell. Of course, that's one of the big questions looming over all of this. So let me put this to you, Mr. Speaker. Would you support a pardon or a commutation for Ghislaine Maxwell, A convicted sex trafficker?
14. **Johnson:** Well, I mean, obviously that's a decision of the President. He said he had not adequately considered that I won't get in front of him. That's not my lane. My lane is to, uh, to, to help direct and control the House of Representatives and to use every tool within our arsenal to get to the truth. I'm gonna say this as clearly and plainly and repeatedly as I can over and over. We are for maximum disclosure. We want all transparency. I trust the American people. I and the House Republicans believe that they should have all this information to be able to determine what they will, but we have to protect the innocent, and that that's the only safeguard here that, that we've gotta, uh, be diligent about. And I'm, I'm insistent upon doing so.
15. **Newscaster:** Well, I, I guess my question is, are you open to a pardon or commutation? I mean, Mr. Speaker, the victims referred to Maxwell as Epstein's, right hand woman. Here's what one victim who testified under a pseudonym told the court at sentencing, quote, "the many acts that were perpetrated on me by Epstein, including rape, strangulation, and sexual assault were never consensual and would not have occurred had it not been for the cunning and premeditated role Ghislaine Maxwell played." Is that someone deserving of a pardon or commutation in any circumstance, Mr. Speaker?
16. **Johnson:** I, if you're asking my opinion, I think 20 years was a pittance. I think she should have a, a life sentence at least. I mean, think of all these unspeakable crimes and as you noted earlier, probably a thousand victims. I mean, uh, you know, this, this is, it's, it's hard to put into words how evil this was and that she orchestrated it and was a big part of it, uh, at, at least in under, under the criminal sanction, I think is an unforgivable thing. So, again, not my decision, but I have great pause about that as, as, as any reasonable person would.
17. **Newscaster:** Two more critical topics to get to with you, Mr. Speaker. Let's talk about the what has been called the big beautiful bill in June. You told me the bill would not cut Medicaid, but two Republican senators ultimately voted against it because of what they thought were cuts to Medicaid. And Senator Josh Hawley is already out proposing legislation to actually roll back some of the Medicaid cuts that he just voted for. Did the Medicaid cuts go too far, Mr. Speaker?

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9d-Kl6ur1U>

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