

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:00:41 a.m. [TEASE]

26 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Dr. Fauci Grilled; Emotional Testimony on Capitol Hill]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Emotional testimony on Capitol Hill.

DR. ANTHONY FAUCI: I think things that we did in the begins were in the context of horrible situation of 4,000 to 5,000 deaths per day. But that doesn't mean that you don't go back and look and say, did everything we do at that point and the duration for which we did it, was that appropriate?

STEPHANOPOULOS: Dr. Anthony Fauci on Covid and how the government handled the pandemic.

(...)

7:10:44 a.m.

2 minutes and 20 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Dr. Fauci Grilled in Fiery Hill Hearing; Testified Before House Panel on Covid Origins & Government's Handling of Pandemic]

ROBIN ROBERTS: And we're going to stay in Washington because we had testimony about the Covid pandemic with Dr. Anthony Fauci back on Capitol Hill. Elizabeth Schulze has those details for us. Good morning, Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH SCHULZE: Good morning to you, Robin and this is the first time Dr. Fauci publicly testified before lawmakers since he stepped away from the federal government back in 2022. It was a contentious, nearly four-hour hearing, with some Republicans grilling him about COVID's origins and Democrats defending his public service. This morning, Dr. Anthony Fauci back in the spotlight after fiery, emotional testimony on Capitol Hill. Fauci choking up as he described death threats against his family.

FAUCI: It is very troublesome to me. It is much more troublesome because they have involved my wife and my three daughters.

CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE DINGELL (D-MI): At these moments, how do you feel?

FAUCI: Terrible.

SCHULZE: Fauci was grilled by House Republicans over policies he endorsed at the helm of the federal response to the COVID pandemic like social distancing and masks for children. More

than one million Americans died from COVID. Fauci defending restrictions put in place at the start.

FAUCI: I think things that we did in the beginning were in the context of horrible situation of 4,000 to 5,000 deaths per day. But that doesn't mean that you don't go back and look and say, did everything we do at that point and the duration for which we did it, was that appropriate?

SCHULZE: He rejected unfounded allegations from GOP lawmakers.

FAUCI: I keep an open mind that it could be either a laboratory leak or it could be what I think the data is leaning towards mostly, which is a natural occurrence from an animal reservoir.

SCHULZE: But the hearing descended into chaos when Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Green launched a series of verbal attacks. Overnight, Fauci responding to reports that a January 6th defendant was sitting behind him before being removed from the hearing.

FAUCI [on CNN's *The Source with Kaitlan Collins*, 06/03/24]: Now what's somebody like that doing at a hearing about COVID?

SCHULZE: Democrats on the Select Committee investigating the pandemic point to tens of thousands of documents they've uncovered over the past 15 months. They say none provide evidence that Fauci covered up that so-called "lab leak" theory, Michael.

MICHAEL STRAHAN: Alright, Elizabeth. Thank you so much for that.