

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We request that you instruct the appropriate Democrat committee chairs to immediately join Republican calls to hold the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) accountable for its role in causing the global COVID-19 pandemic. There is mounting evidence the pandemic started in a Chinese lab, and the CCP covered it up. If that is the case, the CCP is responsible for the deaths of almost 600,000 Americans and millions more worldwide. These questions about the CCP's liability are not a diversion, as you falsely claimed.¹ To the contrary, every American family that lost someone deserves answers about the origin of this terrible virus, and House Democrats' ongoing refusal to allocate investigative resources to get those answers is an affront to them.

Repeatedly, House Republicans called for a full investigation to address the CCP's complicity in obscuring the origins of COVID-19. Repeatedly, our requests were ignored. Instead, House Democrats pursued a radical left-wing agenda that is pushing the economy toward the highest inflation rates since 1979. Indeed, in March 2020, Democrat Whip James Clyburn set the tone when he told House Democrats the pandemic represented "a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision."² Now, more than one year later, Democrats have a record of pushing partisan extremist priorities with no connection to COVID-19 relief, while alarmingly shielding the CCP from scrutiny. After more than a year of inaction in light of mounting evidence against the CCP, it raises serious questions as to why House Democrats continue to cover for the CCP's lies and obfuscation.

The CCP admitted to "firmly oppos[ing] certain countries' attempts to . . . hold China accountable."³ House Republicans have rejected the CCP's position with respect to cooperating with an outside investigation. As Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Jim Jordan said back on July 2, 2020, "[I]f [the CCP] had told us earlier, lots more people would be alive today in our country and around the world. [But] for some reason, the majority doesn't want to look at that

¹ Mike Lillis, *Pelosi: Trump's focus on China an 'interesting diversion'*, THE HILL, May 14, 2020, <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/497871-pelosi-trumps-focus-on-china-is-an-interesting-diversion>.

² Mike Lillis & Scott Wong, *House Democrats eyeing much broader Phase 3 stimulus*, THE HILL, Mar. 19, 2020, <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/488543-house-democrats-eyeing-much-broader-phase-3-stimulus>.

³ Ken Moritsugu, *China outlines COVID-origin findings, ahead of WHO report*, ASSOC. PRESS, Mar. 26, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/beijing-coronavirus-pandemic-wuhan-china-united-nations-fa8eb66bfa6dd4cb7aef962159276fcf>.

fundamental issue.”⁴ To hold the CCP accountable, however, we need access to the full range of tools available to congressional investigators, including subpoenas for documents and the power to compel key witnesses to give testimony. To date, Democrat committee chairs throughout the House are refusing to allocate those resources for questioning about the origins of the COVID-19 virus.

This investigation is more urgent now considering the recent report that, according to U.S. intelligence sources, three researchers from China’s Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) became ill and sought hospital care in November 2019, a full month before the CCP publicly reported any COVID-19 cases.⁵ Although House Democrats have been mum on this new evidence, it certainly got the attention of the Biden Administration, which appears to share the concerns of House Republicans about the CCP’s role in the pandemic. For instance, a spokesperson for the National Security Council said, “[w]e continue to have serious questions about the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its origins within the [CCP].”⁶ The calls for a full and complete investigation of the CCP’s role, however, are not limited to President Biden’s National Security Council:

- Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra said, “we have to understand how COVID-19 surfaced, we have to understand how it spread so we can try to make sure we are prepared for next time” and “[a] COVID origins study must be launched...to fully assess the source of the virus and the early days of the outbreak.”⁷
- Chief Medical Advisor to President Biden Dr. Anthony Fauci, when asked if he was confident COVID-19 developed naturally, said, “no actually, I am not convinced about that, I think we should . . . investigate what went on in China.”⁸

Finding answers to the questions that Secretary Becerra and Dr. Fauci raised will be difficult. The CCP has made it clear that key evidence is not forthcoming. In fact, since the beginning of the pandemic, the CCP has proactively misled the world about COVID-19. One of the possible origins, the WIV, has never shared any raw data, safety logs, or lab records on its

⁴ *The Administration’s Efforts to Procure, Stockpile, And Distribute Critical Supplies: Hearing Before Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Crisis, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform*, 116th Cong. (July 2, 2020) (statement by Hon. Jim Jordan).

⁵ Michael R. Gordon, et. al., *Intelligence on Sick Staff at Wuhan Lab Fuels Debate on Covid-19 Origin*, WALL ST. J. (May 23, 2021), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/intelligence-on-sick-staff-at-wuhan-lab-fuels-debate-on-covid-19-origin-11621796228>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *The Fiscal Year 2022 HHS Budget: Hearing Before H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce*, 117th Cong. (May 12, 2021) (statement by Xavier Becerra, Sec’y, Dep’t of Health & Human Servs.); Joseph Choi, *Becerra calls for ‘transparent’ investigation into COVID-19 origins*, The Hill (May 25, 2021), <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/555211-becerra-investigation-into-covid-19-origins-must-be-transparent>.

⁸ Morgan Phillips, *Fauci ‘not convinced’ COVID-19 developed naturally*, FOX NEWS (May 23, 2021), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fauci-not-convinced-covid-19-developed-naturally>.

work pertaining to coronaviruses.⁹ This follows a similar pattern of deception by the CCP for the past year. The CCP has:

- coordinated with health officials to conceal the origins and spread of COVID-19;¹⁰
- led propaganda campaigns to pass the blame for COVID-19 to other countries, including the United States;¹¹
- silenced and censored COVID-19 whistleblowers, researchers, physicians, and scientists;¹²
- threatened U.S. elected officials, including Members of the House;¹³ and
- expelled American journalists.¹⁴

It is also clear the World Health Organization (WHO) is not up to the task of investigating these questions. On May 19, 2020, member nations directed the WHO to “identify the . . . source” of COVID-19.¹⁵ On March 30, 2021, the WHO released a report that was undermined by the CCP’s ability to influence the underlying investigation. The CCP had full veto power over inclusion of American scientists; vetoed the three Americans put forward by the U.S. government; designed the mission’s itinerary and refused access to Chinese scientists and raw data; and had full power to edit and alter the final report.¹⁶

⁹ Gordan, *supra* note 5.

¹⁰ Nick Wadhams & Jennifer Jacobs, *China Concealed Extent of Virus outbreak, U.S. Intelligence Says*, BLOOMBERG (Apr. 1, 2020), https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-04-01/china-concealed-extent-of-virus-outbreak-u-s-intelligence-says?utm_source=twitter&utm_content=business&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=socialflow-organic&cmpid=socialflow-twitter-business&__twitter_impression=true.

¹¹ Insikt Group, *Chinese State Media Seeks to Influence International Perceptions of COVID-19 Pandemic*, RECORDED FUTURE (Mar. 30, 2020), <https://www.recordedfuture.com/covid-19-chinese-media-influence/>.

¹² Brendon Hong, *China Arrested Doctors Who Warned About Coronavirus Outbreak. Now Death Toll’s Rising, Stocks Are Plunging*, DAILY BEAST (Feb. 3, 2020), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/china-arrested-doctors-who-warned-about-coronavirus-outbreak-now-death-tolls-rising-stocks-are-plunging>; Tobias Hoonhout, *Chinese Authorities Gagged Laboratories in December over Coronavirus-SARS Connection*, NAT’L REVIEW (Mar. 17, 2020), <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/chinese-authorities-gagged-laboratories-in-december-over-coronavirus-sars-connection/>.

¹³ Paul Shinkman, *China Threatens to Sanction U.S. Politicians for Coronavirus Criticism*, U.S. NEWS (May 14, 2020), <https://www.usnews.com/news/world-report/articles/2020-05-14/china-threatens-to-sanction-us-politicians-for-coronavirus-criticism>.

¹⁴ Tony Munroe, et. al., *China expels American journalists as spat with U.S. escalates*, REUTERS (Mar. 17, 2020), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-media/china-expels-american-journalists-as-spat-with-u-s-escalates-idUSKBN2143AN>.

¹⁵ News Release, *WHO calls for further studies, data on origin of SARS-CoV-2 virus, reiterates that all hypotheses remain open*, WORLD HEALTH ORG. (Mar. 30, 2021), <https://www.who.int/news/item/30-03-2021-who-calls-for-further-studies-data-on-origin-of-sars-cov-2-virus-reiterates-that-all-hypotheses-remain-open>.

¹⁶ Drew Hinshaw, et. al., *WHO Report Into Covid-19 Origins Leaves Key Questions Unanswered*, WALL ST. J. (Mar. 29, 2021), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/who-report-into-covid-19-origins-leaves-key-questions-unanswered-11617027920>.

The WHO's inability to conduct a review that yielded meaningful findings makes the need for a bipartisan congressional investigation more acute. The concerns about the WHO's investigation are not isolated to House Republicans—several Biden Administration officials raised similar questions about the reliability of the WHO's report and called for an independent investigation:

- Chief Medical Advisor to President Biden Dr. Anthony Fauci said, “[t]here was a lot of restrictions on the ability of the people who went there to really take a look . . . [I] have some considerable concerns about that.”¹⁷
- After the WHO said a laboratory accident was “extremely unlikely,” Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said, “that is not [the Biden Administration’s] assessment.”¹⁸
- Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, “[w]e’ve got real concerns about the methodology and the process that went into [the WHO] report, including the fact that the government in Beijing apparently helped write it.”¹⁹

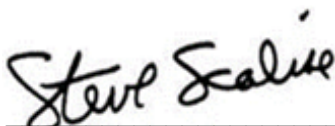
It is clear the WHO failed to produce the final word on the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic and the CCP's liability. That task falls to us in Congress. House Republicans have consistently called on you to uncover this truth. It is time you join this battle.

We hope House Democrats will abandon their partisan agenda and join House Republicans' investigation into the origins of COVID-19. This is one of the most important questions we face. Thank you for your attention to this urgent request.

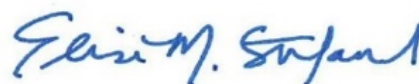
Sincerely,



Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader



Steve Scalise
House Republican Whip



Elise Stefanik
House Conference Chair

¹⁷ Transcript: Anthony Fauci on “Face the Nation”, CBS NEWS (Mar. 28, 2021), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/transcript-anthony-fauci-on-face-the-nation-march-28-2021/>.

¹⁸ Bill Gertz, *DNI Avril Haines knocks WHO report that dismissed theory COVID-19 escaped from lab*, WASH. EXAMINER (Apr. 15, 2021), <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/apr/15/avril-haines-william-burns-rip-who-report-covid-19/>.

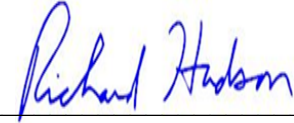
¹⁹ Javier Hernandez, *The U.S. is concerned about China's influence over a report on the pandemic's origins*, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 29, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/29/world/the-us-is-concerned-about-chinas-influence-over-a-report-on-the-pandemics-origins.html>.



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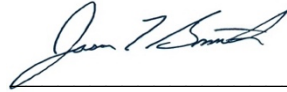
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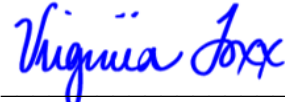
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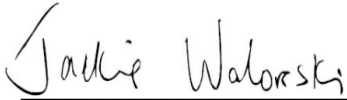
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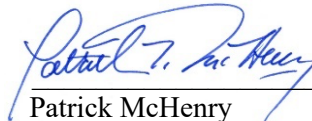
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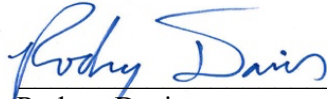
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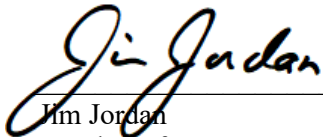
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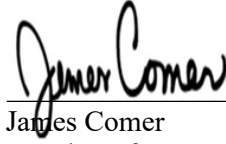
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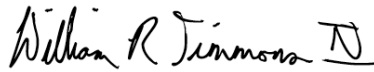
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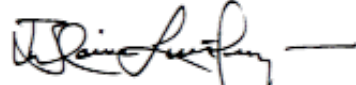
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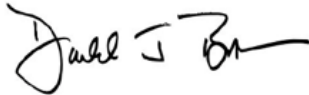
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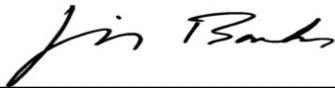
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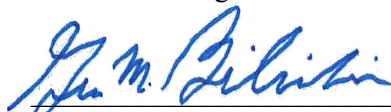
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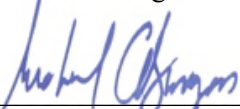
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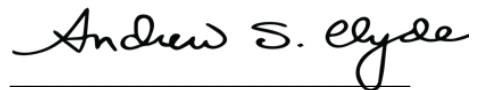
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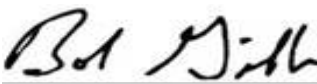
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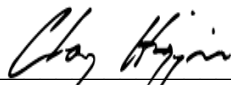
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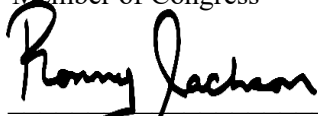
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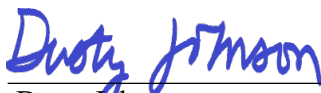
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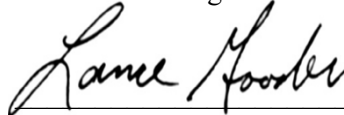
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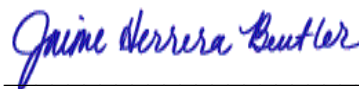
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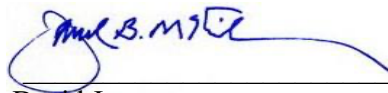
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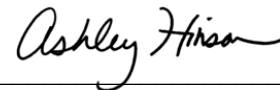
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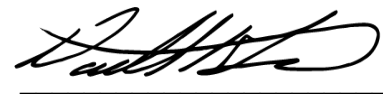
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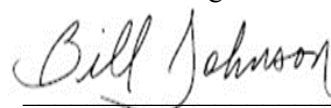
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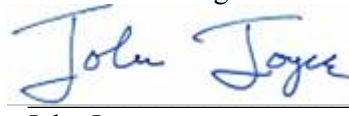
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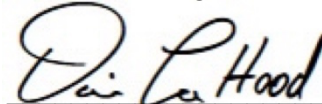
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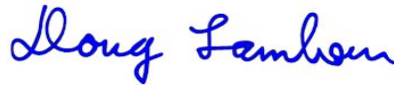
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Doug Lamborn
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Bob Latta
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Jake LaTurner
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Debbie Lesko
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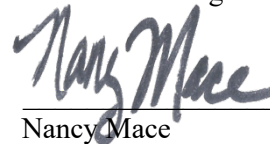
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Billy Long
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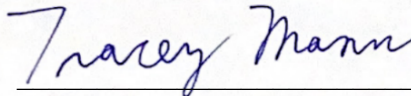
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Nancy Mace
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Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



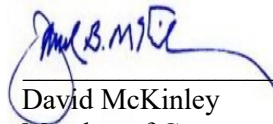
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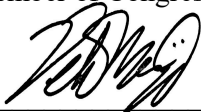
Lisa McClain
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Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



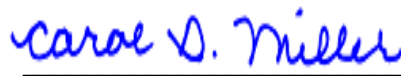
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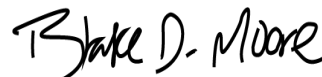
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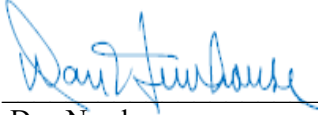
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Blake Moore
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



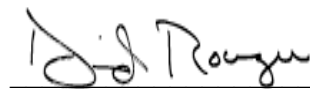
Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



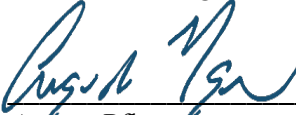
Greg F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



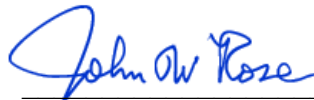
Steve Palazzo
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



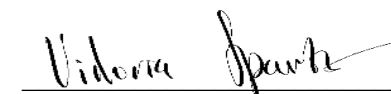
Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress




Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Troy Nehls
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



Greg Pence
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Matt Rosendale
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Greg Steube
Member of Congress



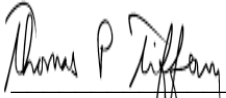
Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Van Taylor
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress



Mike Turner
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



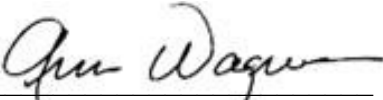
David Valadao
Member of Congress



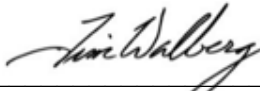
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



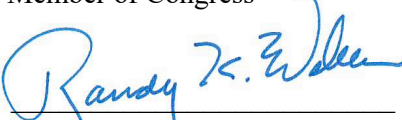
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



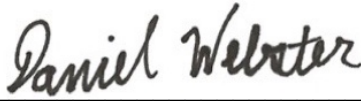
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress




Roger Williams
Member of Congress



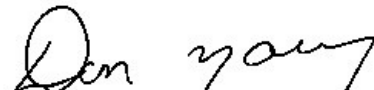
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Rob Wittman
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata C. Radewagen
Member of Congress