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Whip Scalise, Ranking Member Comer, members of this committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. The issue of how this pandemic started is the most important question facing the world and it is Congress' responsibility to ensure the US government, along with our allies and partners, is conducting the most analytically rigorous and exhaustive investigation possible.

I strongly support the establishment of an independent bipartisan expert commission to examine the outbreak of COVID-19. From my firsthand experience on the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, I've seen the power of a hybrid Commission of both legislators and outside experts to break through the noise and deliver substantive, bipartisan recommendations. But even in the absence of a Congressionally-mandated Commission, there are a number of steps we can immediately take to better understand the origins of the virus so that we can prevent a similar crisis from happening again. These include:

- Declassifying all intelligence products, reporting, and assessments relating to COVID-19 origins and in particular those underpinning the IC assessments related to President Biden's May 26, 2021 directive on a COVID investigation, the January 2021 State Department disclosures, and the material used to inform the April 30, 2020 DNI statement on COVID origins.
- Issuing a subpoena to the EcoHealth Alliance for any and all data and files they have relating to their collaboration with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
- Auditing the records of all federal agencies for a thorough accounting of any funding that may have gone to the Wuhan Institute of Virology either directly or through third parties such as NGOs over the past decade.
- Continuing the State Department's Arms Control Investigation into potential biological weapons convention violations.

Regardless of the outcome of these investigations, there are at least three broader lessons that we need to take away from this experience. In the interest of brevity, I am only going to speak very briefly on each, but I would be happy to elaborate during the question-and-answer period.

The first is the pervasive influence of United Front work. Perhaps the easiest way to understand United Front work is to think of it as inception. The CCP influences or co-opts foreign elites—oftentimes without their direct knowledge—to spread messages that align with the Party's interests. Without speculating on their motivations, it is hard to escape noticing that many of the individuals who have been most critical of the lab leak theory, including Peter Daszak, have direct and longstanding relationships with Chinese entities.

The second is the need to enhance American biological defenses. The tragic deaths of more than 600,000 Americans and staggering losses throughout our economy have signaled to our adversaries that biological warfare could be a highly effective mechanism to attack our homeland. Given rapid advances in synthetic biology, we must act quickly so that our adversaries cannot weaponize biology against us.

Third, we must decouple from scientific collaboration with the People's Republic of China. Like many Americans, I was startled to discover that taxpayer resources made their way to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which we know from the January 2021 State Department fact sheet engaged in classified research on behalf of the Chinese military. While scientific collaboration is an important part of American technological leadership, we have plenty of likeminded allies and partners that are not actively engaged in genocide, nor threatening their neighbors with invasion, that we could work with. Unfortunately, given the direction of CCP policy, scientific collaboration is likely to only enhance the Party's grip on power through new ways to surveil or control their population, and in the worst case, develop new capabilities that could be used one day on a field of battle against American service members.

I'd like to thank my colleagues again for the opportunity to appear before this panel and I'm looking forward to your questions.