

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
MINORITY (202) 225-5074
<https://oversight.house.gov>

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dr. Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Acting Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20892

Dear Secretary Becerra and Acting Director Tabak:

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) continue to show a troubling pattern of hiding documents related to the origins of COVID-19, NIH's relationship with EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., and NIH's role in potentially dangerous gain-of-function research.

This lack of transparency continued when the NIH produced—in response to litigation by *The Intercept*—314 pages of information, of which 292 were fully redacted.¹ The redacted pages appear to be different versions of both the “[National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases] NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research” and the “NIAID COVID-19 Research implementation Plan.”² The unredacted portions suggest various research activities related to the COVID-19 response were added to each iteration of the documents.

NIH's and NIAID's use of taxpayer funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic is squarely within the Committee's jurisdiction. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §2954, we request you produce all 314 pages fully unredacted to the Committee as soon as possible but no later than March 23, 2022.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations

¹ Sharon Lerner, *NIH Sent the Intercept 292 Fully Redacted Pages Related to Virus Research in Wuhan*, THE INTERCEPT (Feb. 20, 2022).

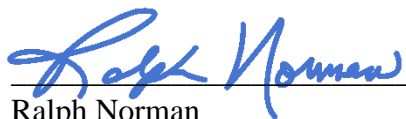
² *Id.*



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



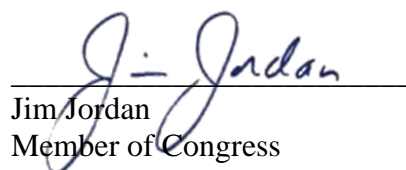
Michael Cloud
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



Ralph Norman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment



Nancy Mace
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and
Civil Liberties



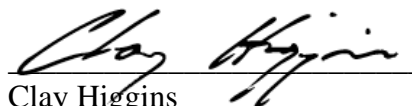
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



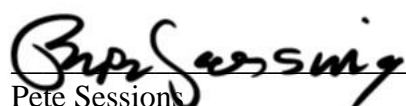
Virginia A. Foxx
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



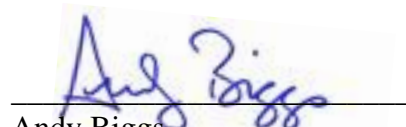
Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



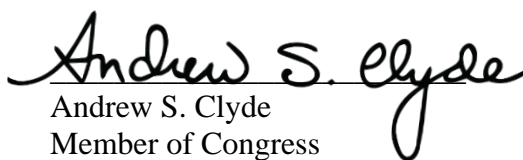
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



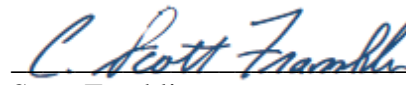
Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



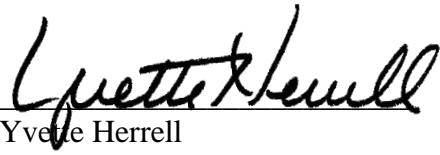
Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties