

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2022

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.
Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
5601 Fishers Lane, MSC 9806
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Fauci:

Since April 2, 2020, Committee Republicans have been investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) role in obscuring the truth regarding the initial outbreak, and whether any U.S. taxpayer dollars funded the Wuhan Institute of Virology's (WIV) dangerous gain-of-function research.¹ We have sent numerous letters to the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). To date, these requests have either been ignored or the responses have been insufficient. As an expert and the Director of NIAID, your cooperation is vital to our investigation.

During the 118th Congress, this investigation will be a priority for the Committee but also the global community. As stated by 18 experts in *Science* magazine, “[k]nowing how COVID-19 emerged is critical for informing global strategies to mitigate the risk of future outbreaks.”² Further, according to the *Lancet* COVID-19 Commission, “[i]dentifying [COVID-19’s] origins would provide greater clarity into not only the causes of the current pandemic but also vulnerabilities to future outbreaks and strategies to prevent them.”³ The origins of the disease that has taken the lives of more than six million people is still unknown.⁴ Uncovering the truth about the origins of COVID-19 is vital to U.S. national security, critical to the prevention of future pandemics, and will bring some semblance of closure to the families of those who lost loved ones during the pandemic.

Because you and your agency have been at the center of the pandemic response since its inception, your documents and testimony are essential to informing the Committee about what the U.S. government knew regarding the origins of COVID-19 and when the government knew it.

To assist the Committee with its investigation of the origins of COVID-19, the CCP’s efforts to cover it up, and all related national security risks, we request that you preserve all documents and communications related to SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and related scientific

¹ Letter from Hon. James Comer, et. al., Ranking Member, Subcomm. on the Environment, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Hon. Michael R. Pompeo, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of State (Apr. 2, 2020).

² Jesse D. Bloom, et. al., *Investigate the origins of COVID-19*, SCIENCE (May 14, 2021).

³ Jeffrey D. Sachs, et. al., *The Lancet Commission on lessons learned for the future from the COVID-19 pandemic*, THE LANCET (Sept. 14, 2022).

⁴ *Id.* (“Theories of accidental release from a lab and zoonotic spillover remain viable.”) (“...hypothesis about both natural and laboratory spillovers are in play and need further investigation.”).

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research, including any documents and communications in your custody or control. Therefore, to allow a full and complete record of these documents to be produced at a later date, please:

1. Preserve all e-mail, electronic documents, and data (“electronic records”) created since January 1, 2014, related to SARS-CoV-2, gain-of-function research, the Potential Pandemic Pathogen Care and Oversight Framework, EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or the origins of COVID-19 generally. For the purposes of this request, “preserve” means taking reasonable steps to prevent the partial or full destruction, alteration, testing, deletion, shredding, incineration, wiping, relocation, migration, theft, or mutation of electronic records as well as negligent or intentional handling in a manner that would make such records incomplete or inaccessible;
2. Exercise reasonable efforts to identify and notify former employees and contractors, including subcontractors and consultants who may have access to such electronic records in an effort to ensure these records are to be preserved; and,
3. If it is the routine practice of any employee or contractor to destroy or otherwise alter such documents or electronic records, either halt such practices or arrange for the preservation of complete and accurate duplicates or copies of such records, suitable for production if requested.

Further, the Committee requires your testimony about these and related matters. Accordingly, please contact Committee staff to schedule a transcribed interview.

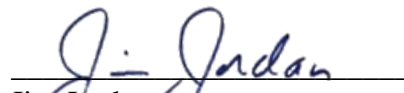
The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. To ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at 202-225-5074.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

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

The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary