

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2023

Mr. Greg Folkers  
Former Chief of Staff, Immediate Office of the Director  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
[TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL]

Dear Mr. Folkers:

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce (“the Committees”) are jointly investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the beginning of this Congress, the Committees sent requests for responsive documents and communications from the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS” or the “Department”), specifically but not limited to documents in the custody of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

We have a Constitutional duty to conduct thorough oversight and evaluate legislative solutions to address deficiencies as well as engrain proficiencies within the federal government. The Committees will use this investigation to inform potential legislation to improve pandemic preparedness, strengthen grant processes and oversight, and enhance biosafety and biosecurity of laboratory and field research. This may also include amending or strengthening current criminal laws regarding defrauding the United States.

Pursuant to the terms of the Select Subcommittee’s February 13, 2023, letter, we reiterate our previous request that you testify at a voluntary transcribed interview on November 10, 2023.

If you are unable to participate on the requested date, please inform the Committees at least one week prior. If you decline to testify voluntarily, the Committees will be forced to consider the use of the compulsory process.

The Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic is authorized to investigate “the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic, including but not limited to the Federal Government’s funding of gain-of function research” and “executive branch policies, deliberations, decisions, activities, and internal and external communications related to the coronavirus pandemic” under H. Res. 5. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is authorized to investigate “any matter” at “any time” pursuant to House Rule X. The Committee on Energy and Commerce is the authorizing committee with jurisdiction and oversight responsibilities for public health service agencies, including the NIH and the entities it funds, as well as for federal biomedical research and development.

Further, House Rule XI clause 2(m)(1)(B) grants Committees of the House of Representatives with the authority “to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and

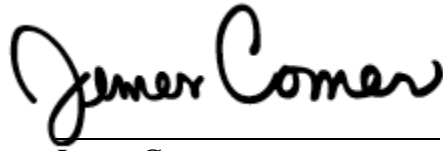
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testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents as it considers necessary.”

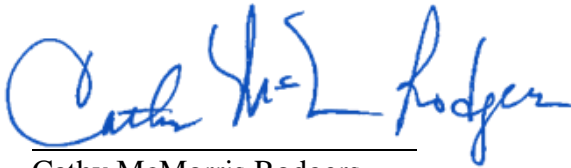
Sincerely,



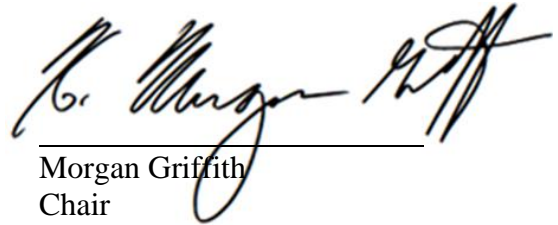
Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Chairman  
Select Subcommittee on the  
Coronavirus Pandemic



James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and  
Accountability



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair  
Committee on Energy and  
Commerce



Morgan Griffith  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations



Brett Guthrie  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Health

cc: The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D., Ranking Member  
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Kathy Castor, Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

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The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Health