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

December 14, 2020

The Honorable Christopher Wray Director Federal Bureau of Investigation 935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

We write concerning the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) matter preventing and combating the attempts of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to spy on American citizens, steal intellectual property, and suppress free speech of American CCP dissenters. Recent reporting suggests these CCP attempts have garnered significant results, including interacting with a Member of Congress on the House Intelligence and Judiciary Committees. ¹

For several months, Committee on Oversight and Reform Republicans have been conducting oversight on all aspects of malign influence by the CCP, particularly the use of spies or covert agents to infiltrate America's most sacred educational and governmental institutions. This year we have inquired into institutes of higher education failing to disclose monetary ties to the CCP, CCP disinformation campaigns regarding the origins and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, CCP providing false information to the World Health Organization (WHO), and CCP theft of American COVID-19 vaccine research.² It is imperative we treat the CCP as what they are—adversaries. Indeed, the Director of National Intelligence recently proclaimed China as "the greatest threat to America today" and the greatest threat to democracy and freedom world-wide since World War II."³

¹ Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian & Zach Dorfman, *Exclusive: Suspected Chinese spy targeted California politicians*, AXIOS (Dec. 8, 2020), https://www.axios.com/china-spy-california-politicians-9d2dfb99-f839-4e00-8bd8-59dec0daf589.html.

² Letter from Jim D. Jordan, et. al., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Betsy D. DeVos, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Educ. (May 4, 2020); Letter from Jody B. Hice, et. al., Ranking Member, Subcomm. on Gov't Operation, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Michael R. Pompeo, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of State (Apr. 2, 2020); Letter from Jim D. Jordan, et. al., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Org. (Apr. 9, 2020); Letter from Steve J. Scalise, et. al., Ranking Member, Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Crisis, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to James E. Clyburn, Chairman, Select Subcomm. on the Coronavirus Crisis, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (May 19, 2020).

³ John Ratcliffe, *China is National Security Threat No. 1*, WALL ST. J. (Dec. 3, 2020), *available at* https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-is-national-security-threat-no-1-11607019599.

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According to media reports, the CCP intelligence operative known as Fang Fang had developed extensive relationships with elected officials at every level of government, including a Democrat U.S. Congressman.⁴ U.S. intelligence officials believe Fang Fang's operation was orchestrated by the CCP's primary civilian spy agency, the Ministry of State Security (MSS), between 2011 and 2015.⁵ The operative targeted primarily Democrat politicians in the San Francisco area, but also around the country.⁶ Fang Fang gained influence through campaigning, fundraising, and cultivating romantic relationships with elected officials and their staff.⁷ This allowed her to learn these officials' habits, schedules, and preferences, potentially to share this information with the MSS.

Depending on the total number of active CCP operatives and the breadth of the MSS operation across our country, any number of elected officials could potentially be compromised without even knowing it. Therefore, to help us better understand the depth and breadth of CCP influence in government institutions, as well as the FBI's efforts to investigate and affirmatively combat CCP efforts, please schedule a staff level briefing on this issue by December 21, 2020.

To schedule the briefing or ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074. This briefing may be conducted remotely for convenience and safety issues. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principle oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

James Comer Ranking Member

Committee on Oversight and Reform

Jody Hice

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Government

Operations

Glenn S. Grothman

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on National Security

Michael Cloud

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Economic and

Consumer Policy

⁴ Allen-Ebrahimian, *supra* note 1; The CCP operative, Fang Fang, also went by Christine Fang.

⁵ *Id*.

⁶ *Id*.

⁷ *Id*.

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Chip Roy

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Civil Rights and

Civil Liberties

Mark E. Green, M.D.

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Environment

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. 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 Jamie Raskin, Chairman Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

The Honorable Harley E. Rouda, Chairman Subcommittee on Environment