

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
United States House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan:

I write in advance of the House Judiciary Committee's hearing, "Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation", to notify you of FBI leadership's ongoing refusal to meet with members of Congress to discuss its work related to the origins of SARS-CoV-2.

On February 28, 2023, FBI Director Chris Wray publicly stated, "[t]he FBI has for quite some time now assessed that the origins of the pandemic are most likely a potential lab incident in Wuhan."¹ The FBI's conclusion was subsequently confirmed in the recent declassified ODNI report which stated that, "[t]he Department of Energy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation assess that a laboratory-associated incident was the most likely cause of the first human infection with SARS-CoV-2."²

As Ranking Members of committees with relevant oversight jurisdiction, Senator Graham and I requested on two separate occasions a meeting with the Assistant Director for the Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate (WMDD) to discuss the Bureau's work related to the origins of COVID-19. On April 20, 2023, Senator Graham and I sent a letter to the FBI Assistant Director of WMDD requesting an in-person meeting as soon as possible. On June 20, 2023, we sent a follow-up letter to Director Wray reiterating our request to meet with the Assistant Director of WMDD and notifying him that we had not received a response to our April request. To date, the FBI has not scheduled the requested meeting or responded to our letters.

The FBI's refusal to meet with elected representatives to discuss their work on SARS-CoV-2 is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated. FBI leadership appears to want to prevent Congress and the American people from learning additional information underlying its conclusion that the origins of the pandemic are most likely a lab incident in Wuhan.

This is not all coincidental. The Biden Administration clearly has a policy against cooperation and has no interest in investigating and resolving the SARS-CoV-2 origins. That policy has clearly infected the FBI and, as a result, contributed to its politicization.

¹ Adam Sabes, FBI Director says COVID pandemic 'most likely' originated from Chinese lab, fox news (Mar. 1, 2023, 2:27 PM), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fbi-director-says-covid-pandemic-most-likely-originated-chinese-lab>.

² Director of Nat'l Intelligence, *Potential Links Between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Origin of the COVID-19 Pandemic*, 3 (2023).

I appreciate your efforts to conduct meaningful oversight of the FBI and look forward to working with you to ensure the Bureau is held accountable to the American people.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rand Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rand Paul, M.D.
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
& Governmental Affairs

Enclosures:

April 20, 2023 Letter from Ranking Members Paul and Graham
June 20, 2023 Letter from Ranking Members Paul and Graham