

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Francis Collins, M.D.
Director, U.S. National Institutes of Health
600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Collins,

Thank you for your leadership in confronting the coronavirus pandemic. We are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) past and current relationship with China's controversial bio-agent laboratory the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) and to ensure no additional U.S. tax dollars are directed to this notorious institution.

On Friday evening, President Donald Trump announced his intention to cut NIH funding for WIV following reports that the agency has been supporting secretive and treacherous laboratory research at the WIV for many years.^{1,2} According to the NIH's website, the WIV is currently authorized to receive taxpayer funding for animal research (Assurance ID# F16-00279).³

Taxpayers' money should not be sent to a dangerous Chinese state-run bio-agent laboratory that lacks any meaningful oversight from U.S. authorities and is run by adversaries with a history of lab leaks, including SARS, and deception about the causes and extent of deadly disease outbreaks, including COVID-19.

We respectfully request that all active grants, sub-grants and contracts awarded to WIV be canceled immediately and that WIV be stripped of its eligibility to receive taxpayer funds from the NIH in the future.

Additionally, please provide the following details about the NIH's relationship with the WIV:

- When did WIV first start receiving funding from the NIH?
- How much total taxpayer funding, by year, has WIV received from the NIH?
- List all active *and* inactive NIH grants, sub-grants or contracts that have in any way supported research at WIV. For each grant, please include:
 - Project title
 - Project number
 - Grantee institution

¹ Taxpayer-funded Animal Experiments Tied To Chinese 'Wet Markets' and Wuhan Laboratory, Carlin Becker - <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/taxpayer-funded-animal-experiments-tied-to-chinese-wet-markets-and-wuhan-laboratory>

² Trump Says He'll End Obama-Era Funding To Chinese Lab That May Have Spawned The Coronavirus. David Krayden - <https://dailycaller.com/2020/04/18/donald-trump-end-funding-china-lab-coronavrus-covid-19/>

³ NIH website, Institutions with a PHS Approved Animal Welfare Assurance - <https://olaw.nih.gov/assured/app/index.html#FOREIGN>


- Start and end dates
- Fiscal Year 2019 funding
- Total funding since grant's inception
- Details about WIV's involvement in the project

Thank you for your efforts and assistance in this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure no future NIH funds are directed to the WIV. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ed Kim with Sen. Martha McSally (edward_kim@mcsally.senate.gov) or Devin Murphy with Rep. Matt Gaetz (devin.murphy@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Martha McSally
U.S. Senator



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201