

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 12, 2023

The Honorable William J. Burns  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
1000 Colonial Farm Rd.  
Langley, VA 22101

Director Burns:

We write in response to the whistleblower allegations recently disclosed by the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic (Select Subcommittee) and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) related to the Central Intelligence Agency's investigation into the origins of COVID-19.<sup>1</sup> According to Chariman Wenstrup and Chairman Turner:

A multi-decade, senior-level, current Agency officer has come forward to provide information to the [Select Subcommittee and HPSCI] regarding the Agency's analysis into the origins of COVID-19. According to the whistleblower, the Agency assigned seven officers to a COVID Discovery Team (Team). The Team consisted of multi-disciplinary and experienced officers with significant scientific expertise. According to the whistleblower, at the end of its review, six of the seven members of the Team believed the intelligence and science were sufficient to make a low confidence assessment that COVID-19 originated from a laboratory in Wuhan, China. The seventh member of the Team, who also happened to be the most senior, was the lone officer to believe COVID-19 originated through zoonosis. The whistleblower further contends that to come to the eventual public determination of uncertainty, the other six members were given a significant monetary incentive to change their position.<sup>2</sup>

These allegations are deeply concerning and raise serious questions about the Agency's investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, we request you provide our offices with the following information no later than September 25, 2023:

1. All documents and communications regarding the establishment of all iterations of the COVID Discovery Team(s);
2. All documents and communications between or among the members of all iterations of the COVID Discovery Team(s) regarding the origins of COVID-19;

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<sup>1</sup> Press Release, House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, Testimony from CIA Whistleblower Alleges New Information on COVID-19 Origins (Sept. 12, 2023), <https://oversight.house.gov/release/testimony-from-cia-whistleblower-alleges-new-information-on-covid-19-origins/>.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Chairman Brad Wenstrup and Chairman Mike Turner to CIA Director William J. Burns (Sept. 12, 2023), <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023.09.12-SSCP-HPSCI-Letter-to-CIA-Re.-Origins-of-COVID.pdf>.

3. All documents and communications between or among members of all iterations of the COVID Discovery Team(s) and other employees or contractors of the Agency regarding the origins of COVID-19;
4. All documents and communications between or among members of all iterations of the COVID Discovery Team(s) and employees or contractors of other federal government agencies, including but not limited to the U.S. Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (to include the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases), and the U.S. Department of Energy regarding the origins of COVID-19; and
5. All documents and communications regarding the pay history, to include the awarding of any type of financial or performance-based incentive/financial bonus to members of all iterations of the COVID Discovery Team(s).

Sincerely,



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



Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary



Ron Johnson  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Subcommittee  
on Investigations



Rick Scott  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Robin Ashton  
Inspector General  
Central Intelligence Agency

The Honorable Thomas A. Monheim  
Inspector General of the Intelligence Community  
Office of the Intelligence Community Inspector General