

RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO TRANSMIT  
CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING  
TO THE INVESTIGATION BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY INTO THE  
ORIGINS OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS

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DECEMBER 13, 2022.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. SCHIFF, from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H. Res. 1466]

The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 1466) of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID-19 virus, having considered the same, reports thereon without amendment and without recommendation.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H. Res. 1466 requests the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID-19 virus.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, the virus has been responsible for the deaths of over 6.6 million people around the world, including nearly 1.1 million people in the United States.

In March 2021, President Biden tasked the Intelligence Community (IC) to prepare a report on its most up-to-date analysis of the origins of COVID-19, including whether it emerged from human

contact with an infected animal or from a laboratory-associated incident.<sup>1</sup>

In May 2021, after receiving that initial IC report, which did not reach a definitive conclusion on the question of COVID-19's origins, the President asked the IC "to redouble their efforts to collect and analyze information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion, and to report back to me in 90 days."<sup>2</sup> The President received this updated classified report in August 2021.<sup>3</sup> This Committee also received that classified report, along with an unclassified summary of the report's key judgments.<sup>4</sup>

Upon receiving the updated classified report and unclassified summary, Chairman Schiff stated as follows:

I appreciate the comprehensive analysis the Intelligence Community has undertaken on the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic at the direction of President Biden. Determining the source of the pandemic, including whether it originated from animal to human transmission or a lab accident, is critically important. As the unclassified report indicates, the Intelligence Community has not been able to reach a high-confidence assessment about the origins of the virus. It is important that we allow analysts, along with medical and scientific experts, to conduct their work professionally and without bias or politicization.<sup>5</sup>

Chairman Schiff also stated: "What is clear is that China's continued obstruction of a transparent, comprehensive examination of the relevant facts and data remains the single greatest impediment to determining the source of the virus. This stonewalling approach is unacceptable and delays the vital work necessary to prevent the next potential pandemic."<sup>6</sup>

On September 23, 2021, the Committee held a classified Member briefing on the intelligence regarding the origins of COVID-19 and how that intelligence informed the IC's updated report. This Member briefing supplemented multiple briefings that Committee staff, on a bipartisan basis, requested and received from IC analysts on this topic throughout 2021. In October 2021, the Director of National Intelligence, through the National Intelligence Council, released a longer, unclassified assessment regarding the possible origins of COVID-19.<sup>7</sup>

Trying to prevent and prepare for the next pandemic is a vital national security objective, and understanding the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic is an important component of achieving that objective. Most notably, the U.S. will have more leverage to demand changes by China if we can point to one clear origin. At the same time, wherever this pandemic came from, the next pandemic

<sup>1</sup>See Statement by President Joe Biden on the Investigation into the Origins of COVID-19 (May 26, 2021), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/05/26/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-the-investigation-into-the-origins-of-covid-19/>.

<sup>2</sup>See *id.*

<sup>3</sup>See Statement by President Joe Biden on the Investigation into the Origins of COVID-19 (August 27, 2021), available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/27/statement-by-president-joe-biden-on-the-investigation-into-the-origins-of-covid-%E2%81%A019/>.

<sup>4</sup>The unclassified summary is available at <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/Unclassified-Summary-of-Assessment-on-COVID-19-Origins.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup>See Chairman Schiff Statement on COVID-19 Origins Report (August 27, 2021), available at <https://intelligence.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=1154>.

<sup>6</sup>See *id.*

<sup>7</sup>That assessment is available at <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/De-classified-Assessment-on-COVID-19-Origins.pdf>.

could come from either natural transmission or a lab-related incident. It is clear that China, as well as other nations, must make major changes to reduce the likelihood of both a future animal-to-human transmission and a future lab accident.

The Committee has conducted vigorous oversight of the IC's assessments of the origins of COVID-19, and strongly supports continued oversight. Given the stakes involved, it is critical that this oversight be conducted without bias and without politicization, designed only to discover the truth.

For the foregoing reasons, the Committee voted to report H. Res. 1466 without recommendation.

#### COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has not held hearings on the legislation.

#### COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

H. Res. 1466 was introduced on November 14, 2022 by Ranking Member Turner (R-OH) and was referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. On December 7, 2022, the Committee met in open markup session and ordered H. Res. 1466, without amendment, reported without recommendation to the House by voice vote.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee are reflected in the descriptive portion of the report.

#### NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX

##### EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopts as its own the estimate of new budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues contained in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a statement as to whether this bill contains any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

#### FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee will adopt as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

#### STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to request the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relat-

ing to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID-19 virus.

#### DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H. Res. 1466 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

#### COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee will adopt as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

#### EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H. Res. 1466 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committee within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act is created by this legislation.

#### APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

H. Res. 1466 requests the President to transmit to the House of Representatives, not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, copies of all documents (including records, memos, correspondence, and other communications), to the extent that any such one or more items are within the possession of the President and refer or relate to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID-19 virus.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

There are no changes to existing law made by H. Res. 1466.

## MINORITY VIEWS

The Republicans of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence are encouraged that Democrats support the critical oversight responsibilities of this Committee and their decision to report this resolution to the House. This resolution is necessary to facilitate this Committee's oversight responsibilities because the Intelligence Community (IC) has repeatedly ignored Member requests for information, including Congressionally Directed Actions and statutory provisions from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Intelligence Authorization Act.

Specifically, House Resolution 1466 requests that the President transmit documents to the House related to the IC's investigation into the origins of COVID-19. In May 2021, President Biden tasked the IC to conduct this review. The IC has inadequately briefed the Committee on its findings and has refused to answer certain questions that have been asked, including the IC's use and dependence on outside experts and the composition of the Biologic Science Experts Group. To date, Committee Republicans have sent 27 letters to IC Element heads requesting information related to the IC's review of COVID origins. Additionally, in the enacted FY 2022 IAA, funds were fenced from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence until they provided a listing of outside experts who contributed to their analytic products.

As a result of the IC not providing the information that has been requested by this Committee and mandated by Congress, it is the prerogative of the House to request such information from the President in order to fulfill its Article I oversight responsibilities.

MICHAEL R. TURNER,  
*Ranking Member.*

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