August 3, 2020

Dr. Robert Zimmer
President
University of Chicago
5801 South Ellis Ave., Suite 501
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Dr. Zimmer:

We write to further understand the effects of adversarial foreign direct investment in the U.S. higher education system.\(^1\) Under Secretary Betsy DeVos’s leadership, the Department of Education (Department) has sought to improve transparency and reduce reliance on foreign investment by actively enforcing Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which requires colleges and universities to disclose contracts with, and gifts from, any foreign source of over $250,000 to the Department.\(^2\) To date, the Department has uncovered over $6.5 billion of previously unreported foreign donations to U.S. Institutes of Higher Education (IHE).\(^3\)

On May 20, 2020, the Department briefed the Oversight Committee about this apparent lack of transparency in reporting as required by the law. The Department also raised concerns about this level of IHEs dependency on foreign funding from adversarial states and the inherent national security risks.\(^4\) Through the efforts of the Department, the Committee learned that many countries use donation agreements or contracts (agreements) with IHEs, professors, or researchers (recipients) to leverage their money into some type of benefit, or quid pro quo.\(^5\) This benefit can materialize in different ways. For example, Qatar deems all its donations to recipients to be “strategic” and “trade secrets” and precludes the recipient from disclosing the amount or purpose of the donation.\(^6\) Furthermore, some countries place clauses in their agreements granting them first right of refusal before the recipient publishes or sells any work product.\(^7\) Finally and most concerning, some recipients alter their decision making based on the donations received.\(^8\)

During the briefing, the Department informed the Committee that after reports the COVID-19 pandemic may be the result of negligence in a lab in Wuhan, China, two universities that have

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\(^1\) 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).
\(^4\) U.S. Dep’t of Educ Briefing to H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform Staff (May 20, 2020).
\(^5\) Id.
\(^6\) Id.
\(^7\) Id.
\(^8\) Id.
contracts with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) aligned Jilin University publicly defended the CCP and claimed those reports were false.\(^9\)

Since 2015, the University of Chicago has declared 30 gifts or contracts totaling $23,059,862 from China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Russia—all of which were anonymous.\(^{10}\) In light of transparency concerns and to help us better understand foreign influence and investment in U.S. higher education, we respectfully request that you produce the following documents and information:

1) All unredacted records of gifts from, contracts or agreements with, and restricted or conditional gifts from or contacts with foreign sources, for the period January 1, 2015, to the present, including but not limited to:
   a. the Chinese government, Communist Party of China, or any affiliated organizations, any Chinese national, or any business primarily located in China;
   b. the Qatari government or any affiliated organizations, any Qatari national, or any business primarily located in Qatar;
   c. the Saudi Arabian government or any affiliated organizations, any Saudi national, or any business primarily located in Saudi Arabia;
   d. the Iranian government or any affiliated organizations, any Iranian national, or any business primarily located in Iran; and
   e. the Russian government or any affiliated organizations, any Russian national, or any business primarily located in Russia.

2) All information, documents, and communications between or among the University of Chicago, any of its affiliates, and any of the parties included in request 1 for the period January 1, 2015, to the present.

Please provide this material as soon as possible but not later than by 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2020. In addition, please arrange to provide a staff-level briefing no later than August 10, 2020. This briefing may be conducted remotely for convenience and safety issues. To schedule the briefing or ask any questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. The Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction pursuant to House Rule X over espionage, immigration policy and enforcement, and subversive activities affecting the security of the United States. The Committee on Education and Labor has jurisdiction over Section 117 of the Higher Education Act.

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\(^9\) Id.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

__________________________  ________________________
James Comer                Jim Jordan
Ranking Member             Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform Committeee on the Judiciary

__________________________
Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
    Committee on Oversight and Reform

    The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman
    Committee on the Judiciary

    The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman
    Committee on Education and Labor
August 3, 2020

Dr. Dennis Assanis  
President  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716

Dear Dr. Assanis:

We write to further understand the effects of adversarial foreign direct investment in the U.S. higher education system.¹ Under Secretary Betsy DeVos’s leadership, the Department of Education (Department) has sought to improve transparency and reduce reliance on foreign investment by actively enforcing Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which requires colleges and universities to disclose contracts with, and gifts from, any foreign source of over $250,000 to the Department.² To date, the Department has uncovered over $6.5 billion of previously unreported foreign donations to U.S. Institutes of Higher Education (IHE).³

On May 20, 2020, the Department briefed the Oversight Committee about this apparent lack of transparency in reporting as required by the law. The Department also raised concerns about this level of IHEs dependency on foreign funding from adversarial states and the inherent national security risks.⁴ Through the efforts of the Department, the Committee learned that many countries use donation agreements or contracts (agreements) with IHEs, professors, or researchers (recipients) to leverage their money into some type of benefit, or quid pro quo.⁵ This benefit can materialize in different ways. For example, Qatar deems all its donations to recipients to be “strategic” and “trade secrets” and precludes the recipient from disclosing the amount or purpose of the donation.⁶ Furthermore, some countries place clauses in their agreements granting them first right of refusal before the recipient publishes or sells any work product.⁷ Finally and most concerning, some recipients alter their decision-making based on the donations received.⁸ During the briefing, the Department informed the Committee that after reports the COVID-19 pandemic may be the result of negligence in a lab in Wuhan, China, two universities that have

¹ 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).
⁴ U.S. Dep’t of Educ Briefing to H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform Staff (May 20, 2020).
⁵ Id.
⁶ Id.
⁷ Id.
⁸ Id.
contracts with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) aligned Jilin University publicly defended the CCP and claimed those reports were false.\textsuperscript{9}

Since 2015, the University of Delaware has declared six gifts or contracts totaling $28,558,456 from China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, or Russia—all of which were anonymous.\textsuperscript{10} In light of transparency concerns and to help us better understand foreign influence and investment in U.S. higher education, we respectfully request that you produce the following documents and information:

1) All unredacted records of gifts from, contracts or agreements with, and restricted or conditional gifts from or contacts with foreign sources, for the period January 1, 2015, to the present, including but not limited to:
   a. the Chinese government, Communist Party of China, or any affiliated organizations, any Chinese national, or any business primarily located in China;
   b. the Qatari government or any affiliated organizations, any Qatari national, or any business primarily located in Qatar;
   c. the Saudi Arabian government or any affiliated organizations, any Saudi national, or any business primarily located in Saudi Arabia;
   d. the Iranian government or any affiliated organizations, any Iranian national, or any business primarily located in Iran; and
   e. the Russian government or any affiliated organizations, any Russian national, or any business primarily located in Russia.

2) All information, documents, and communications between or among the University of Delaware, any of its affiliates, and any of the parties included in request 1 for the period January 1, 2015, to the present.

Please provide this material as soon as possible but no later than by 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2020. In addition, please arrange to provide a staff-level briefing no later than August 10, 2020. This briefing may be conducted remotely for convenience and safety issues. To schedule the briefing or ask any questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

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\textsuperscript{9} Id.
Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor
August 3, 2020

Dr. Lawrence Bacow
President
Harvard University
Massachusetts Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Bacow:

We write to further understand the effects of adversarial foreign direct investment in the U.S. higher education system. Under Secretary Betsy DeVos’s leadership, the Department of Education has sought to improve transparency and reduce reliance on foreign investment by actively enforcing Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which requires colleges and universities to disclose contracts with, and gifts from, any foreign source of over $250,000 to the Department. To date, the Department has uncovered over $6.5 billion of previously unreported foreign donations to U.S. Institutes of Higher Education (IHE).

On May 20, 2020, the Department briefed the Oversight Committee about this apparent lack of transparency in reporting as required by the law. The Department also raised concerns about this level of IHEs dependency on foreign funding from adversarial states and the inherent national security risks. Through the efforts of the Department, the Committee learned that many countries use donation agreements or contracts (agreements) with IHEs, professors, or researchers (recipients) to leverage their money into some type of benefit, or quid pro quo. This benefit can materialize in different ways. For example, Qatar deems all its donations to recipients to be “strategic” and “trade secrets” and precludes the recipient from disclosing the amount or purpose of the donation. Furthermore, some countries place clauses in their agreements granting them first right of refusal before the recipient publishes or sells any work product. Finally and most concerning, some recipients alter their decision making based on the donations received.

During the briefing, the Department informed

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1 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).
4 U.S. Dep’t of Educ Briefing to H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform Staff (May 20, 2020).
5 Id.
6 Id.
7 Id.
8 Id.
the Committee that after reports the COVID-19 pandemic may be the result of negligence in a lab in Wuhan, China, two universities that have contracts with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)—aligned Jilin University publicly defended the CCP and claimed those reports were false.9

Since 2015, Harvard University has declared 31 gifts or contracts totaling $101,177,826 from China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Russia—all of which were anonymous.10 In light of transparency concerns and to help us better understand foreign influence and investment in U.S. higher education, we respectfully request that you produce the following documents and information:

1) All unredacted records of gifts from, contracts or agreements with, and restricted or conditional gifts from or contacts with foreign sources, for the period January 1, 2015, to the present, including but not limited to:
   a. the Chinese government, Communist Party of China, or any affiliated organizations, any Chinese national, or any business primarily located in China;
   b. the Qatari government or any affiliated organizations, any Qatari national, or any business primarily located in Qatar;
   c. the Saudi Arabian government or any affiliated organizations, any Saudi national, or any business primarily located in Saudi Arabia;
   d. the Iranian government or any affiliated organizations, any Iranian national, or any business primarily located in Iran; and
   e. the Russian government or any affiliated organizations, any Russian national, or any business primarily located in Russia.

2) All information, documents, and communications between or among Harvard University, any of its affiliates, and any of the parties included in request 1 for the period January 1, 2015, to the present.

Please provide this material as soon as possible but no later than by 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2020. In addition, please arrange to provide a staff-level briefing no later than August 10, 2020. This briefing may be conducted remotely for convenience and safety issues. To schedule the briefing or ask any questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

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9 Id.
of the United States. The Committee on Education and Labor has jurisdiction over Section 117 of the Higher Education Act.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor

cc:  The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
     Committee on Oversight and Reform

     The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman
     Committee on the Judiciary

     The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman
     Committee on Education and Labor
August 3, 2020

Dr. Andrew Hamilton  
President  
New York University  
70 Washington Square South  
New York, NY 10012  

Dear Dr. Hamilton:

We write to further understand the effects of adversarial foreign direct investment in the U.S. higher education system. Under Secretary Betsy DeVos’s leadership, the Department of Education (Department) has sought to improve transparency and reduce reliance on foreign investment by actively enforcing Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which requires colleges and universities to disclose contracts with, and gifts from, any foreign source of over $250,000 to the Department. To date, the Department has uncovered over $6.5 billion of previously unreported foreign donations to U.S. Institutes of Higher Education (IHE).

On May 20, 2020, the Department briefed the Oversight Committee about this apparent lack of transparency in reporting as required by the law. The Department also raised concerns about this level of IHEs dependency on foreign funding from adversarial states and the inherent national security risks. Through the efforts of the Department, the Committee learned that many countries use donation agreements or contracts (agreements) with IHEs, professors, or researchers (recipients) to leverage their money into some type of benefit, or quid pro quo. This benefit can materialize in different ways. For example, Qatar deems all its donations to recipients to be “strategic” and “trade secrets” and precludes the recipient from disclosing the amount or purpose of the donation. Furthermore, some countries place clauses in their agreements granting them first right of refusal before the recipient publishes or sells any work product. Finally and most concerning, some recipients alter their decision-making based on the donations received.

During the briefing, the Department informed the Committee that after reports the COVID-19 pandemic may be the result of negligence in a lab in Wuhan, China, two universities that have...
contracts with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)—aligned Jilin University publicly defended the CCP and claimed those reports were false.9

Since January 2015, New York University has declared 15 gifts or contracts totaling $40,388,603 from China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Russia—all of which were anonymous.10 In light of transparency concerns and to help us better understand foreign influence and investment in U.S. higher education, we respectfully request that you produce the following documents and information:

1. All unredacted records of gifts from, contracts or agreements with, and restricted or conditional gifts from or contacts with foreign sources, for the period January 1, 2015, to the present, including but not limited to:
   a. the Chinese government, Communist Party of China, or any affiliated organizations, any Chinese national, or any business primarily located in China;
   b. the Qatari government or any affiliated organizations, any Qatari national, or any business primarily located in Qatar;
   c. the Saudi Arabian government or any affiliated organizations, any Saudi national, or any business primarily located in Saudi Arabia;
   d. the Iranian government or any affiliated organizations, any Iranian national, or any business primarily located in Iran; and
   e. the Russian government or any affiliated organizations, any Russian national, or any business primarily located in Russia.

2. All information, documents, and communications between or among New York University, any of its affiliates, and any of the parties included in request 1 for the period January 1, 2015, to the present.

Please provide this material as soon as possible but no later than by 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2020. In addition, please arrange to provide a staff-level briefing no later than August 10, 2020. This briefing may be conducted remotely for convenience and safety issues. To schedule the briefing or ask any questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

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9 Id.
Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary

Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor

cc:  The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

          The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary

          The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor
August 3, 2020

Dr. Amy Gutmann  
President  
University of Pennsylvania  
1 College Hall, Room 100  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Dr. Gutmann:

We write to further understand the effects of adversarial foreign direct investment in the U.S. higher education system. Under Secretary Betsy DeVos’s leadership, the Department of Education has sought to improve transparency and reduce reliance on foreign investment by actively enforcing Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which requires colleges and universities to disclose contracts with, and gifts from, any foreign source of over $250,000 to the Department. To date, the Department has uncovered over $6.5 billion of previously unreported foreign donations to U.S. Institutes of Higher Education (IHE).

On May 20, 2020, the Department briefed the Oversight Committee about this apparent lack of transparency in reporting as required by the law. The Department also raised concerns about this level of IHEs dependency on foreign funding from adversarial states and the inherent national security risks. Through the efforts of the Department, the Committee learned that many countries use donation agreements or contracts (agreements) with IHEs, professors, or researchers (recipients) to leverage their money into some type of benefit, or quid pro quo. This benefit can materialize in different ways. For example, Qatar deems all its donations to recipients to be “strategic” and “trade secrets” and precludes the recipient from disclosing the amount or purpose of the donation. Furthermore, some countries place clauses in their agreements granting them first right of refusal before the recipient publishes or sells any work product. Finally and most concerning, some recipients alter their decision making based on the donations received. During the briefing, the Department informed the Committee that after reports the COVID-19 pandemic may be the result of negligence in a lab in Wuhan, China, two universities that have

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1 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).
4 U.S. Dep’t of Educ Briefing to H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform Staff (May 20, 2020).
5 Id.
6 Id.
7 Id.
8 Id.
contracts with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)—aligned Jilin University publicly defended the CCP and claimed those reports were false.\(^9\)

Since 2015, the University of Pennsylvania has declared 92 gifts or contracts totaling $62,204,380 from China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Russia—all of which, 28 totaling $27,104,975 were anonymous.\(^10\) In light of transparency concerns and to help us better understand foreign influence and investment in U.S. higher education, we respectfully request that you produce the following documents and information:

1) All unredacted records of gifts from, contracts or agreements with, and restricted or conditional gifts from or contacts with foreign sources, for the period January 1, 2015, to the present, including but not limited to:
   a. the Chinese government, Communist Party of China, or any affiliated organizations, any Chinese national, or any business primarily located in China;
   b. the Qatari government or any affiliated organizations, any Qatari national, or any business primarily located in Qatar;
   c. the Saudi Arabian government or any affiliated organizations, any Saudi national, or any business primarily located in Saudi Arabia;
   d. the Iranian government or any affiliated organizations, any Iranian national, or any business primarily located in Iran; and
   e. the Russian government or any affiliated organizations, any Russian national, or any business primarily located in Russia.

2) All information, documents, and communications between or among the University of Pennsylvania, any of its affiliates, and any of the parties included in request 1 for the period January 1, 2015, to the present.

Please provide this material as soon as possible but no later than by 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2020. In addition, please arrange to provide a staff-level briefing no later than August 10, 2020. This briefing may be conducted remotely for convenience and safety issues. To schedule the briefing or ask any questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

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\(^9\) Id.
Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

__________________________  _______________________
James Comer                Jim Jordan
Ranking Member             Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform  Committee on the Judiciary

__________________________
Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor

cc:  The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
     Committee on Oversight and Reform

     The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman
     Committee on the Judiciary

     The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman
     Committee on Education and Labor
August 3, 2020

Dr. Peter Salovey  
President  
Yale University  
3 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511

Dear Dr. Salovey

We write to further understand the effects of adversarial foreign direct investment in the U.S. higher education system. Under Secretary Betsy DeVos’s leadership, the Department of Education (Department) has sought to improve transparency and reduce reliance on foreign investment by actively enforcing Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which requires colleges and universities to disclose contracts with, and gifts from, any foreign source of over $250,000 to the Department. To date, the Department has uncovered over $6.5 billion of previously unreported foreign donations to U.S. Institutes of Higher Education (IHE). On May 20, 2020, the Department briefed the Oversight Committee about this apparent lack of transparency in reporting as required by the law. The Department also raised concerns about this level of IHEs dependency on foreign funding from adversarial states and the inherent national security risks.

Through the efforts of the Department, the Committee learned that many countries use donation agreements or contracts (agreements) with IHEs, professors, or researchers (recipients) to leverage their money into some type of benefit, or quid pro quo. This benefit can materialize in different ways. For example, Qatar deems all its donations to recipients to be “strategic” and “trade secrets” and precludes the recipient from disclosing the amount or purpose of the donation. Furthermore, some countries place clauses in their agreements granting them first right of refusal before the recipient publishes or sells any work product. Finally and most concerning, some recipients alter their decision making based on the donations received. During the briefing, the Department informed the Committee that after reports the COVID-19 pandemic may be the result of negligence in a lab in Wuhan, China, two universities that have

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4 U.S. Dep’t of Educ Briefing to H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform Staff (May 20, 2020).
5 Id.
6 Id.
7 Id.
8 Id.
contracts with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) aligned Jilin University publicly defended the CCP and claimed those reports were false.\textsuperscript{9}

Since January 2015, Yale University has declared 18 gifts or contracts totaling $22,049,302 from China, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Russia, all of which were anonymous.\textsuperscript{10} In light of transparency concerns and to help us better understand foreign influence and investment in U.S. higher education, we respectfully request that you produce the following documents and information:

1) All unredacted records of gifts from, contracts or agreements with, and restricted or conditional gifts from or contacts with foreign sources, for the period January 1, 2015, to the present, including but not limited to:
   a. the Chinese government, Communist Party of China, or any affiliated organizations, any Chinese national, or any business primarily located in China;
   b. the Qatari government or any affiliated organizations, any Qatari national, or any business primarily located in Qatar;
   c. the Saudi Arabian government or any affiliated organizations, any Saudi national, or any business primarily located in Saudi Arabia;
   d. the Iranian government or any affiliated organizations, any Iranian national, or any business primarily located in Iran; and
   e. the Russian government or any affiliated organizations, any Russian national, or any business primarily located in Russia.

2) All information, documents, and communications between or among Yale University, any of its affiliates, and any of the parties included in request 1 for the period January 1, 2015, to the present.

Please provide this material as soon as possible but no later than by 5:00 p.m. on August 10, 2020. In addition, please arrange to provide a staff-level briefing no later than August 10, 2020. This briefing may be conducted remotely for convenience and safety issues. To schedule the briefing or ask any questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

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\textsuperscript{9} Id.
Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary

Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor