

December 16, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee
Room H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger,

We were excited to hear reports that a bipartisan and bicameral solution to funding the U.S. Government for the remainder of FY 2023 was agreed upon in principle. As negotiations on the specifics of this package move forward, we would like to draw your attention to a critical matter of national security, public health, and government waste.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), with little accountability to Congress or the administration, continues to authorize funding for animal experimentation laboratories directly controlled by foreign adversaries that act contrary to the national interest of the United States.

While the Biden Administration announced in June its intention to cut off funding to labs controlled by the Russian government¹, for example, NIH refuses to publicly acknowledge that it is following the President's direction. Further, NIH staff are actively monitoring and pushing back against Congressional efforts to defund risky gain-of-function experiments in China, including the Wuhan Institute of Virology²

As there is no statutory prohibition for funding laboratories in foreign adversary nations or nations acting contrary to the national interest of the United States, NIH bureaucrats make the final call and continue to fund these animal labs without regard for the American taxpayer. Meanwhile, taxpayers have repeatedly indicated their support for withholding those funds— 71% of respondents to a recent poll indicated that they support federal legislation to restrict animal testing in countries that are adversaries of the United States.

We were heartened to see the bipartisan support in the House Appropriations Committee for a solution to this problem. Rep. DeLauro's FY23 Labor-HHS Manager's Amendment included language closing this egregious loophole and we write today to urge you to ensure that similar language is included in the omnibus package considered by Congress later this month.

The House bill states:

Sec. 526. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or any other laboratory located in a country determined

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/06/11/guidance-on-scientific-and-technological-cooperation-with-the-russian-federation-for-u-s-government-and-u-s-government-affiliated-organizations/>

² <https://dailycaller.com/2022/12/13/nih-wuhan-lab-leak-conspiracy-gain-function-money-videos/>

by the Secretary of State to be a foreign adversary, including China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran.

Foreign government-controlled laboratories should not be eligible to receive U.S. taxpayer dollars while they disregard our policies, dodge Congressional oversight, or act against our national interest. Thank you in advance for your assistance in protecting U.S. taxpayers from having their hard-earned tax dollars sent to labs in nations acting against the United States.

Sincerely,

Tristan M. Daedalus
Government Affairs Director
White Coat Waste Project

David H. Safavian
Senior Vice President
American Conservative Union/CPAC

Matt Kibbe
President
Free the People

Adam Brandon
President
FreedomWorks

Celeste Garrett
Legislative Director
People for Liberty

David Williams
President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Vanessa Shakib
Co-Founder | Co-Director
Advancing Law for Animals