

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON  
CHAIR

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641

Minority (202) 225-2927

August 9, 2023

Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S, Ph.D.  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director  
National Institutes of Health  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dr. Tabak:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, we write to follow-up on our request for information and documents from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that could help support the Committee's potential legislative efforts to improve pandemic preparedness, strengthen the NIH grant oversight, and enhance the biosafety of laboratory and field research.

On May 3, 2023, we sent a letter requesting documents relating to any early SARS-CoV-2 sequences, data from early COVID-19 cases, or other pertinent documents related to the early phase of the pandemic the NIH may have or has had. Nearly three months later, we have no meaningful evidence that the NIH is responding to this request.

Given this lack of response and the lack of meaningful engagement with committee staff to provide a document production, we request that the NIH provide responsive documents by no later than August 31, 2023. In the event that the NIH does not provide documents by that date, the Committee will be forced to consider compulsory process to secure production of the requested documents.

If you have any questions, please contact the Oversight and Investigations Majority staff at (202) 225-3641. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair  
Energy and Commerce Committee



Brett Guthrie  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Health



H. Morgan Griffith  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment of May 3, 2023, letter

CC: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member  
The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health  
The Honorable Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations