

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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August 16, 2024

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Committee) is conducting a government-wide investigation into the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP or the Party) political warfare operations against America and the response from federal agencies. Vice President Kamala Harris recently announced her vice presidential running mate, Timothy Walz, the current governor of Minnesota. As part of the Committee's government-wide investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI or the Bureau) briefed the Committee on April 22, 2024, and July 17, 2024.¹ FBI briefers told the Committee that the Bureau's Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF) investigates exactly the kind of activity that has since come to light about Governor Walz. As such, the Committee seeks information about the Chinese entities and officials Governor Walz has engaged and partnered with, as well as any warnings or advice the FBI may have given to Governor Walz about U.S. political figures being targeted by or recruited for CCP influence operations.

It has come to the Committee's attention that Governor Walz has longstanding connections to CCP-connected entities and officials that make him susceptible to the Party's strategy of elite capture, which seeks to co-opt influential figures in elite political, cultural, and academic circles to influence the United States to the benefit of the communist regime and the detriment of Americans.² Reporting about Governor Walz's extensive engagement with CCP officials and entities while serving in public office raises questions about possible CCP influence in his decision-making as governor—and, should he be elected, as vice president.³

¹ Briefing from DOJ & FBI Officials to Oversight & Accountability Committee staff (Apr. 22, 2024); Briefing from FBI Officials to Oversight & Accountability Committee staff (July 17, 2024).

² See Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Merrick Garland, Attorney General, Dep't of Justice (Mar. 13, 2024).

³ The PRC and the CCP are used interchangeably, which reflects that the "state (i.e. the government) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is entirely under the monopolistic control of a single ruling political party, the CCP," and that "the party is completely intertwined with the state system." *Understanding the Black Box of Chinese Politics*, Asia Society Policy Inst., available at <https://asiasociety.org/policy-institute/decoding-chinese-politics/introduction-black-box-chinese-policy>.

Recent reporting reveals that Governor Walz has concerning ties to the People’s Republic of China (PRC). In 1993, according to the Star-Herald, as a teacher, Mr. Walz organized a trip to the PRC for Alliance High School students, where costs were paid by the Chinese government.⁴ In 1994, Mr. Walz set up a private company named “Educational Travel Adventures, Inc.,”⁵ which coordinated annual student trips to the PRC until 2003,⁶ and was led by Mr. Walz himself. The corporation was reportedly dissolved four days after he took congressional office in 2007.⁷ Since his first trip to China, Governor Walz has visited the PRC an estimated “30 times.”⁸ In its investigation, the Committee has highlighted the importance of U.S. officials being cognizant of CCP political and psychological warfare⁹ efforts that seek to threaten national security.¹⁰

While serving in Congress, Mr. Walz also served as a fellow at the Macau Polytechnic University,¹¹ a Chinese institution that characterizes itself as having a “long held devotion to and love for the motherland.”¹² At the time he disclosed serving as a Macau fellow, Mr. Walz also had significant credit card debt.¹³ In 2019, Governor Walz, headlined the 27th National Convention for the U.S. China Peoples Friendship Association, in the state of Minnesota.¹⁴ Governor Walz spoke alongside the President of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), which, a year later, the Department of State exposed as “a Beijing-based organization tasked with co-opting subnational governments,” including efforts

⁴ Jan Treffer, *Boarding the Orient Express*, Star-Herald (July 25, 1993); Tim Hains, *Peter Schweizer: Tim Walz Has “All The Hallmarks” Of A Close Association With The CCP*, Real Clear Politics (Aug. 8, 2024); see also letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Miguel A. Cardona, Sec’y, Dep’t of Educ. (May 6, 2024) (“Academics and policy experts broadly agree the PRC is engaged in political warfare to immerse itself in the U.S. education system and the PRC is committed to ensuring it is the world leader in science and technology by 2050”).

⁵ See Gabe Whisnant, *Tim Walz’s China Connection Explained*, Newsweek (Aug. 6, 2024).

⁶ Sasha Gong & Bradley A. Thayer, *Ten Things to Know About Tim Walz and His Ties to Communist China*, American Greatness (Aug. 15, 2024).

⁷ Business Record Details, *Educational Travel Adventures, Inc.*, Office of the Minnesota Sec’y of State Steve Simon (last accessed Aug. 15, 2024).

⁸ Diana Glebova & Ryan King, *Tim Walz has fawned over Communist China: Doesn’t have to be ‘adversarial relationship’*, New York Post (Aug. 6, 2024) (quoting Walz from a 2016 interview with Agri-Pulse); see also Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Antony Blinken, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of State (May 6, 2024) (cautioning that federal officials should not encourage or recommend travel to the PRC without acknowledging the risks to an individual’s physical and data security).

⁹ See Col. Grant Newsham, *When China Attacks: A Warning to America*, at 64 (2023) (Psychological warfare “seeks to change an opponent’s thinking and behavior in a way that is favorable to PRC interests and objectives.”).

¹⁰ See Letter from Hon. James Comer, Chairman, Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Hon. Gina Raimondo, Sec’y, U.S. Dep’t of Commerce (May 6, 2024).

¹¹ Lisa Chiu, *Learn more about Kamala Harris’ VP pick Tim Walz*, CGTN (Aug. 6, 2024); Form A, Financial Disclosure Statement, *Timothy James Walz*, U.S. House of Representatives (May 13, 2007).

¹² Macau Polytechnic University, *Message from the Rector*, available at https://www.mpu.edu.mo/en/welcome_message.php (last accessed Aug. 15, 2024).

¹³ Financial Disclosure Statement, *supra* note 11.

¹⁴ Natalie Winters (@nataliegwinters), X (Aug. 6, 2024, 1:04 pm), <https://x.com/nataliegwinters/status/1820868640805396769>.

“to directly and malignly influence state and local leaders to promote the PRC’s global agenda.”¹⁵

Governor Walz has admitted that he does not “fall into the category that China necessarily needs to be an adversarial relationship.”¹⁶ Despite bipartisan efforts to identify and defeat CCP unrestricted warfare against America, Governor Walz continues problematic engagement with concerning entities and individuals. In March 2024, he met with Consul General Zhao Jian to discuss “China-U.S. relations and sub-national cooperation.”¹⁷ Despite his knowledge and condemnation of communist China’s human right violations, Governor Walz has said he “applaud[s] the accomplishments of the Chinese people and recognize[s] that some in the Chinese Government advocate for greater rule of law.”¹⁸

To assist the Committee’s investigation into CCP infiltration and influence operations and the response from federal agencies, please provide the following documents and information no later than August 30, 2024:

1. All documents and communications in the FBI’s possession, including that of the Foreign Influence Task Force’s, regarding any Chinese entity or individual with whom Mr. Walz may have engaged or partnered. Such entities and individuals include, but are not limited to, the following gathered from recent reporting and related entities:
 - a. Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries;
 - b. Chinese Students and Scholars Associations;
 - c. Confucius Institutes;
 - d. Consul General Zhao Jian;
 - e. Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the United States;
 - f. Macau Polytechnic University;
 - g. Ministry of Public Security;
 - h. Ministry of State Security;
 - i. National Association for China’s Peaceful Unification;
 - j. PRC consulates in the United States;
 - k. The united front, including the United Front Work Department;
 - l. U.S. China People’s Friendship Association; and
 - m. United States China Heartland Association.

2. All documents and communications between the FBI and Governor Walz or the Office of the Governor of Minnesota pertaining to warnings or guidance about

¹⁵ Press Statement, Designation of the National Association for China’s Peaceful Unification (NACPU) as a Foreign Mission of the PRC, U.S. Dep’t of State (Oct. 28, 2020).

¹⁶ Glebova & King, *supra* note 8.

¹⁷ ChinaConsulateChicago (@ChinaConsulate), X (Apr. 1, 2024, 8:26 pm), <https://x.com/ChinaConsulate/status/1774956547484864804>.

¹⁸ Statement for Hearing: Examination into the Abuse of Extralegal Detention of Legal Advocate Chen Guangcheng and His Family, Hon. Tim Walz, Ranking Member, Cong.-Exec. Comm’n on China (Nov. 1, 2011).

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subnational government officials engaging with the PRC, CCP, and the CCP's proxies.

Attached are instructions for producing the documents and information to the Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability 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. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Comer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

James Comer

Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie B. Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability