



DAVID P. JOYCE
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
14TH DISTRICT OF OHIO

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

July 23, 2024

Director Rahul Gupta
Office of National Drug Control Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dr. Gupta:

On July 9, 2024, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) released an interim report prepared by Eric Cottier to the President of WADA on its handling of allegations of doping among Chinese swimmers ahead of the 2021 Olympic Games. According to the report, 23 swimmers tested positive for the prohibited substance trimetazidine (TMZ), but the Chinese Anti-Doping Agency did not publicly announce the test results nor determine that the TMZ positive tests were anti-doping rule violations.¹

I share your concerns with the limited scope of the interim report and your request that the final report should address additional questions in how WADA handled the positive tests.² I strongly believe that there needs to be a comprehensive investigation into WADA's actions and why it did not disqualify the Chinese swimmers from participation in the Tokyo Games. Several of these swimmers are expected to contend for medals again at the 2024 Olympic Games.³

It is disheartening to me that WADA did not follow long-standing anti-doping rules. In addition to demanding a more robust final report, I join the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency in its call for WADA to release all case file evidence on the positive tests, agree to an independent internal audit, and establish an independent expert committee to make decisions on all positive tests that do not result in an anti-doping rule violation and public announcement.⁴

¹ Eric Cottier, Interim Report to WADA President, July 1, 2024, https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/summary_report_en_0.pdf

² Office of National Drug Control Policy Director Statement on WADA Interim Report, July 9, 2024, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/briefing-room/2024/07/09/ondcp-director-dr-rahul-gupta-statement-on-world-anti-doping-agency-interim-report/>

³ Michael Schmidt and Tariq Panja, "Chinese Swimmers Twice Tested Positive for Drugs. They Kept on Swimming", *The New York Times*, June 20, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/14/world/asia/china-swimming-doping.html>

⁴ Testimony of Travis T. Tygart, U.S. Anti-Doping Agency Chief Executive Officer, House Energy and Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, June 25, 2024, https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/Witness_Testimony_Tygart_dfa02f57ba.pdf

As Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee overseeing the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) funding, I want to ensure that American taxpayer dollars are properly spent. The United States is the largest single donor to WADA, with \$3.7 million enacted by Congress for annual membership dues in fiscal year 2024.⁵ As our athletes prepare to compete in the Games in Paris later this week, it is important that we ensure that all athletes are playing by the same rules.

I ask that you provide detailed information on how the United States' role on WADA's Executive Council can be used to press for rigorous transparency in WADA's past and future actions. Most importantly, I encourage ONDCP's active role in implementing the recommendations included in the final report that would improve WADA processes and prevent a similar situation from happening in the future. It is imperative that we have confidence in clean sport on a global level.

Please have your staff contact Matthew Stubeck in my office at (202) 225-5731 to schedule a staff-level ONDCP briefing on the interim WADA report. Thank you for your engagement on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Joyce", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Joyce
Chairman

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
House Appropriations Committee

⁵ Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, Public Law 118-47.