

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2124 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2323 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chair Guthrie, and Ranking Member Pallone:

As you work to protect public health, strengthen our nation's biosecurity, we respectfully urge you to support a hearing and a subsequent markup in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on H.R. 5747, the Preventing Illegal Laboratories and Protecting Public Health Act of 2025. Recent incidents have made clear that dangerous biological activity can fall into a real oversight gray zone. Congress has a clear opportunity to close those gaps and ensure first responders are not left to navigate high risk biological incidents without clear federal guardrails before the next incident puts another community at risk.

This legislation was developed in direct response to the illegal laboratory discovered in Reedley, California, where local officials uncovered a large volume of lab materials and biological samples and then faced a difficult, multi-agency scramble to determine what was present, what risks it posed, and what tools existed to respond.¹ A bipartisan investigation by the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party documented serious concerns raised by the Reedley incident and highlighted clear gaps in oversight, visibility, and coordination that can allow dangerous biological activity to operate under the radar.

The active investigation by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation involving suspected biological materials only reinforces the urgency of closing those gaps now rather than after the next incident. Taken along with continued public reporting about potential links back to the earlier Reedley operation and alleged foreign linked financing concerns, the need for practical federal safeguards and clearer coordination channels is hard to ignore.²

¹ The Associated Press, *An illicit, Chinese-owned lab fueled conspiracy theories. But officials say it posed no danger* (August 9, 2023) (accessed February 3, 2026) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/chinese-lab-biological-weapons-fears-california-5ca5824b09ad5b8c2c65b639743e8507>).

² The Associated Press, *Suspected biolab found at Las Vegas home; 1 person arrested* (February 2, 2026) (accessed February 3, 2026) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/las-vegas-biolab-swat-arrest-2599fad2d8e92033829c47a3602e379b>).

H.R. 5747, the Preventing Illegal Laboratories and Protecting Public Health Act of 2025 advances straightforward, commonsense guardrails built around the recommendations made in the bipartisan Select Committee on the CCP report on the Reedley lab incident.³ The bill would strengthen federal visibility into transfers of highly pathogenic agents through federally reviewable logbook requirements for covered distributors, with identity and intended use verification and record retention. It also would improve the federal approach to high containment laboratory oversight by directing periodic strategic evaluations, updated national standards, and a single point of contact to coordinate with state, local, Tribal, and territorial partners when suspicious lab activity is identified, along with a feasibility study toward a centralized database of high containment laboratories for official use.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the Committee on Energy and Commerce schedule a hearing and a subsequent markup of H.R. 5747, the Preventing Illegal Laboratories and Protecting Public Health Act of 2025, as soon as possible. Congress must act without delay to advance this bipartisan solution and protect against biosecurity vulnerabilities caused foreign adversaries. Thank you for your attention and prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,



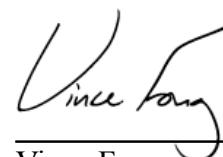
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Kevin Kiley
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Vince Fong
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress

³ House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, *Investigation into the Reedley Biolab: Findings* (November 15, 2023) (accessed February 3, 2026) (online at <https://chinaselectcommittee.house.gov/media/investigations/investigation-reedley-biolab-findings>).