

# U.S. Rep. Gallagher: Calls on administration to declassify intelligence surrounding origins of COVID-19

Posted on Monday, Feb 27, 2023

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.-** Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI), a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, today released the following statement on reports that the U.S. Department of Energy believes a lab leak was the likely origin of the COVID-19 pandemic.

***“For over a year, anyone who suggested that COVID-19 may have leaked from a lab was labeled as a conspiracy theorist.***

***“As evidence clearly mounts in favor of the lab-leak hypothesis, the American people deserve complete transparency from the federal government on the origins of COVID-19. That means this administration must declassify all the relevant intelligence - protecting for sources and methods - surrounding the pandemic’s origins, and provide information as to who was advising the members of the Intelligence Community who have dismissed or downplayed the concept of a lab leak. We must also take concrete steps to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable for their lack of transparency surrounding COVID-19 by passing my bill to impose sanctions and other restrictions on CCP-affiliated scientists until the Party allows a transparent, international investigation into the Wuhan Institute of Virology.***

***“In order to prevent the next pandemic, we have to know how this one began. The administration must move with a sense of urgency and use***

***every tool at its disposal to ensure we understand the origins of COVID-19.”***