JIM BANKS
THIRD DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1403

December 15, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker,

We write to you today out of concern with Congressman Eric Swalwell's reported, close contacts with a Chinese Communist Party spy recently reported by Axios. Because of Rep. Swalwell's position on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, his close interactions with Chinese intelligence services, however unintentional they may be, are an unacceptable national security risk. HPSCI handles some of the most sensitive information our government possesses – information critical to our national defense. As such, we urge you to immediately remove Rep. Swalwell from his position on the House Intelligence Committee.

In 2017, when the Washington Post reported that former Attorney General Jeff Sessions did not share with Congress, however accidental, that he had two meetings with the Russian Ambassador, you said he was, "not fit to serve… and must resign." You also called for an impartial commission to investigate his ties to the Russians. In the end, AG Sessions chose to recuse himself from Robert Mueller's fruitless, unsubstantiated investigation into the Trump campaign. By your own standards, Congressman Swalwell is unfit to serve on the Intelligence Committee.

Rep. Swalwell withheld information for five years from the House Intelligence Committee about an ongoing Chinese espionage operation targeted at him and his own colleagues. Obviously, Rep. Swalwell's interactions with a Chinese spy were more dangerous and unusual than AG Session's meetings with a Russian diplomat. But to make matters worse, Rep. Swalwell kept this information to himself while repeatedly using his position on HPSCI to peddle damaging and baseless conspiracies about President Donald Trump's unproven ties to Russia for years and still refuses to comment fully on the extent and nature of his relationship with the Chinese Communist Party spy exposed in Axios' bombshell report.

According to FBI Director Christopher Wray: "There's no country that presents a broader or more comprehensive [espionage] threat to America's innovation, to our economic security and to our democratic ideas," than China. According to Acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf earlier this year, it is China who remains our most significant and persistent strategic

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adversary. The House Intelligence Committee is instrumental in overseeing our national effort to counteract our chief global rival's espionage initiatives; for one of its members to have had an undisclosed relationship with a foreign asset in the manner described by recent reports is unacceptable and dangerous.

For consistency's sake, and more importantly, for the sake of our national security, you must remove Rep. Swalwell from his position on HPSCI.

Sincerely,

Jim Banks
Member of Congress

Chip Roy
Member of Congress

Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Greg Murphy

Ron Wright

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress

Ted Budd
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress

Warren Davidson
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Kevin Hern
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Ron Wright
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Kelly Armstrong
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Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Fred Keller
Member of Congress