

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 1, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Gina Raimondo
Secretary
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Alan Estevez
Under Secretary
Department of Commerce, Bureau of
Industry and Security
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo and Under Secretary Estevez:

We write to express our strong concern about this administration's decision to remove the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s Institute for Forensic Sciences (the Institute) from the Department of Commerce's Entity List. This deeply misguided decision to lift sanctions on the CCP—as China continues to indoctrinate our children through social media and poison Americans with fentanyl—will only embolden President Xi.

Reports indicate that this decision was made to encourage the Chinese to stop the illicit production and exportation of deadly fentanyl precursors.¹ While we agree that stopping the CCP's exportation of these precursors is paramount and long overdue, your administration's strategy is misguided. By preemptively removing the Institute from the entity list, you continue to show weakness on the world stage. When America's adversary poisons and kills United States citizens, we should not beg or negotiate. We must respond with the strength and resolve that has long defined America and cemented our role as the most powerful nation on Earth.

We must also continue to stand for human rights around the world. In 2020, President Trump put the Institute on the sanctions list because of their abuse of the Uyghurs.² The CCP—and the Institute for Forensic Sciences—subjects the Uyghurs to unthinkable evil. Their vicious, genocidal campaign includes forced sterilization, forced labor, torture, rape, and murder. One would think that standing against the genocide of the Uyghurs would be included in this administration's newly formed National Strategy to Counter Islamophobia, but it seems that giving the CCP a victory on the world stage is more important to this administration.

Additionally, this administration continues to ignore the role President Biden's open border policies have played in the fentanyl poisoning epidemic. Americans will continue to die by the hundreds of thousands if we fail to secure our southern border. Instead of spending time and

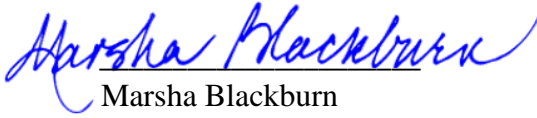
¹ Alexandra Alper, *Biden Removes Sanctions from Chinese Institute in Push for Fentanyl Help*, REUTERS (November 16, 2023), <https://www.reuters.com/business/us-commerce-dept-removes-chinese-agency-entity-list-federal-register-2023-11-16/>.

² Jenny Leonard, *Biden to Lift Curbs on Chinese Forensic Lab in Fentanyl Deal*, BLOOMBERG (November 16, 2023), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-11-16/biden-to-lift-curbs-on-chinese-forensic-lab-in-fentanyl-deal>.

taxpayer funds welcoming President Xi to San Francisco with open arms, we should hire more border patrol agents, build the wall, and punish the criminal Mexican cartels who have partnered with the Chinese to poison Americans with fentanyl.

The CCP is one of the most repressive regimes in the world. If they had any desire to curb the production of fentanyl precursors in their country, they would have already taken action. To preemptively reward them with the removal of sanctions is unconscionable. President Xi will only respond to strength. We must force his hand and make it clear that sanctions will only be lifted after the CCP stops the deadly production of fentanyl precursor chemicals. We ask this administration to reinstate the Institute's place on the entity list and finally take a strong stance against the genocidal CCP regime.


Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



J.D. Vance
United States Senator