



September 23, 2024

Via email: nsdfoia@usdoj.gov

Arnetta Mallory
Government Information Specialist
National Security Division
Department of Justice
3 Constitution Square
175 N Street N.E., 12th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20530

Freedom of Information Act Request: Tim Walz's Connections to China

Dear FOIA Officer:

America First Legal Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization working to promote the rule of law in the United States, prevent executive overreach, and ensure due process and equal protection for all Americans, all to promote public knowledge and understanding of the law and individual rights guaranteed under the Constitution and laws of the United States. To that end, we file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on issues of pressing public concern, then disseminate the information we obtain, making documents broadly available to the public, scholars, and the media. Using our editorial skills to turn raw materials into distinct work, we distribute that work to a national audience through traditional and social media platforms. AFL's X page has over 272,000 followers and the X page of our Founder and President has over 734,000 followers.

I. Background

Recently, there has been increasing scrutiny in Congress and elsewhere of Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's extensive, multi-decade connection to the People's Republic of China.¹ Now that he is the official Democrat nominee for Vice President of the United States, Gov. Walz will receive classified national security briefings.² If there is reason

¹ Lauren Peller et al., *GOP's Comer Launches Investigation Into Walz's 'Engagement' With China*, ABC NEWS (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://perma.cc/U9MN-6ZVM>.

² Dan Ingram, *Intelligence Briefings for Presidential Candidates, Explained*, THE DISPATCH (Apr. 8, 2024), <https://perma.cc/Z8F2-UM5F>.

611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231
Washington, DC 20003

320 South Madison Avenue
Monroe, Georgia 30655

to believe that Gov. Walz is, willingly or unwillingly, an asset of a foreign communist power, then the American people have a right to be informed of all available information before they cast their ballots in November.

II. Records Request

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, AFL requests the following records:

- All documents related to Tim Walz's connections with, and travels to, the People's Republic of China

III. Custodians

- The National Security Directorate Counterintelligence and Export Control Section (CES)

IV. Fee Waiver

AFL requests a waiver of all search and duplication fees associated with this request under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.10. First, AFL is a qualified non-commercial public education and news media requester. Our officials routinely appear on national television and use social media platforms to disseminate the information it has obtained about federal government activities. In this case, AFL will make your records and your responses publicly available for the benefit of citizens, scholars, and others, and the public's understanding of your policies and practices will be enhanced through AFL's analysis and publication of the requested records. As a nonprofit organization, AFL does not have a commercial purpose, and releasing the requested information is not in AFL's financial interest.

V. Expedited Processing

Also, AFL requests expedited processing of this request. In support thereof, AFL certifies its compelling need for expedited processing under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(ii) & (iv). There is a compelling need for expedited processing under *both* criteria. Election Day is only weeks away. The American people have a right to know the extent to which a candidate for Vice President is connected to the Chinese Communist Party, which employs tactics that seek to influence U.S. lawmakers to achieve policies that are more favorable to China.³ Additionally, Walz's connections to the People's Republic of China are a matter of widespread media interest.⁴ Your prompt production of records will ensure that the second-highest office

³ *The China Threat*, FBI, <https://perma.cc/PD43-59MY>.

⁴ Praveena Somasundaram & Jacqueline Alemany, *House Republicans Launch Probe into Tim Walz's Relationship to China*, WASH. POST (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://perma.cc/MZM2-9SRE>; Lauren Peller et

in our government remains free of foreign influence. Additionally, if the Biden-Harris administration is willfully withholding damaging documents for political reasons, despite the potential national security dangers, then it is paramount that the American people are promptly informed.

VI. Conclusion

Processing should strictly comply with the processing guidance in the Attorney General's Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.⁵ If you have any questions about our request or believe further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate the more efficient production of requested records, please contact me at FOIA@aflegal.org. To accelerate your release of responsive records, AFL welcomes production on an agreed-upon rolling basis. Please provide responsive records in an electronic format via email. Alternatively, please provide responsive records in native or PDF format on a USB drive to America First Legal Foundation, 611 Pennsylvania Ave SE #231, Washington, DC 20003.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert A. Crossin

America First Legal Foundation

al., *GOP's Comer Launches Investigation into Walz's 'Engagement' with China*, ABC NEWS (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://perma.cc/U9MN-6ZVM>; Isabel Vincent, *Tim Walz's 'Cozy' Relationship with Communist China Probed: 'Americans Should be Deeply Concerned'*, N.Y. POST (Aug. 16, 2024), <https://perma.cc/D83P-SU9G>; Jackson Walker, *House Republicans Hide FBI Over 'Silence' on Tim Walz's Alleged CCP Ties: 'Inexcusable'*, NBC 15 NEWS (Sept. 12, 2024), <https://perma.cc/7Z8E-5B2C>.

⁵ U.S. DEP'T JUST. (Mar. 15, 2022), <https://perma.cc/698A-FABV>.