

December 9, 2024

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

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

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

CC: Chairman John Moolenaar & Ranking Member Raja Krishnamoorthi

We at Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC and the 51 undersigned organizations are writing to express our strong opposition to a reauthorization of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (Select Committee) in the upcoming 119th Congress. While we are clear-eyed about the legitimate national security and economic concerns with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) – including but not limited to cybersecurity, intellectual property rights, and human rights abuses – we strongly believe that renewing the Select Committee would not effectively advance the shared goal of seriously addressing these issues.¹ Instead, reauthorizing the Select Committee would only continue to specifically target an individual community in a manner that will lead to a rise in anti-Asian and anti-Chinese sentiment in this country at a time when Asian immigrants and Asian Americans are already especially vulnerable to racial profiling, discrimination, violence, and hate after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the Select Committee’s formation in 2023, we have opposed a number of bills that it either has played an active role in developing or otherwise referred to as “critical pieces of legislation.”² Most recently, during the problematically-dubbed “China Week,” the House voted on two bills despite vocal opposition, one of which would reinstate the now-defunct “China Initiative” – a program which used racial profiling to target Chinese immigrant and Chinese American scientists and accuse them of largely unsubstantiated claims of espionage – and another that recalls past efforts to use misguided claims of national security to hinder Asian immigrants and other marginalized communities from becoming land owners³.

¹ Messaging Guidance, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, February 27, 2024, <https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/publication/advancing-justice-aajc-messaging-guidance>.

² Media Statement, The Select Committee on the CCP, “25 China Week Bills,” September 12, 2024, <https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/media/bills/25-china-week-bills#:~:text=WASHINGTON%20DC%20%2D%20Chairman%20John%20Moolenaar.threats%20posed%20by%20the%20Chinese>.

³ Letter, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, “In Opposition of ‘China Week’ Framing,” September 11, 2024, <https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/publication/opposition-china-week-framing>; Press Statement, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, “Stop AAPI Hate, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC, Asian Scholar Forum Condemn U.S.-China Legislation Rooted in Xenophobia,” September 12, 2024, <https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/press-release/stop-aapi-hate-asian-americans-advancing-justice-aajc-asian-american-scholar-forum>.

We have also expressed concern regarding Select Committee members' consistent uses of fearmongering, hostile, and aggressive rhetoric when characterizing the U.S.-China relationship. For instance, a May 17, 2023 hearing covered the "economic **warfare**" of the CCP, notwithstanding the fact that witnesses were asked questions about intellectual property theft and exploitation of U.S. markets, rather than either country's military or weaponry.⁴ Just a month later on June 18th. 2023, the Select Committee subjected **all** shipments from China to scrutiny when it requested records of Chinese-originating mail from the United States Postal Service for FY21 and FY22, adopting a blunt approach when it required narrow and deliberate action.⁵ Most recently in August 2024, Chairman Moolenaar spoke to the media about a largely imagined fear of CCP land purchases near American military bases.⁶ His appearance and comments doubled down on legislation that has too often been overly broad and not narrowly tailored, so as to threaten the civil rights and liberties of innocent individuals.⁷

Finally, it is also important to note that the House is already well equipped to address PRC-related concerns without reauthorizing the Select Committee. According to its own website, the Select Committee identifies multiple issues of interest, including TikTok, the Uyghur genocide, and the national defense, and yet they all clearly fall within the domain of permanent congressional committees that, unlike the Select Committee, have the authority to take action on legislative items. Given its overlapping topics of interest with other congressional committees, it is clear that the Select Committee is both unnecessary to advance critical U.S.-China legislation, and jurisdictionally redundant. Instead of reauthorizing a committee that perpetuates a harmful, zero-sum and adversarial framework and pours more fuel on existing racial animus, the House should redirect much-needed resources elsewhere.

As leading civil society organizations across a spectrum of issues, we urge you to decline reauthorizing the Select Committee and chart a new course on U.S.-China relations, one that appropriately balances our country's interests with the individual rights of Asian immigrants and Asian Americans. The downstream effects of reauthorization are clear for the AAPI community: discrimination and racial profiling, particularly against Chinese immigrants or Chinese Americans, who will be unwittingly caught in the crossfire through no fault of their own. We must remain nuanced and deliberate in our tone and language, especially when discussing these complicated global affairs with severe domestic consequences.

Sincerely,

⁴ Press Release, The Select Committee on the CCP, "ICYMI: Select Committee on the CCP Fires Back at CCP's Economic Warfare in Prime Time Hearing," May 17, 2023, <https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/media/press-releases/icymi-select-committee-ccp-fires-back-ccps-economic-warfare-prime-time-hearing>.

⁵ Letter, The Select Committee on the CCP, Gallagher, Comer Request Chinese Shipment Data from USPS Post Master, June 27, 2023, <https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2023-06-27-letter-to-state-sta-agreement.pdf>.

⁶ Press Release, The Select Committee on the CCP, "ICYMI: Moolenaar Joins NewsNation to Discuss the CCP's Land Purchases, Flow of Fentanyl, and Authoritarian Alignment," August 5, 2024, <https://selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/media/press-releases/icymi-moolenaar-joins-newsnation-discuss-ccps-land-purchases-flow-fentanyl-and>.

⁷ Press Release, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, "Historic Legal Battle Unveiled Against Discriminatory Florida Housing Law SB 264," May 6, 2024, <https://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/press-release/historic-legal-battle-unveiled-against-discriminatory-florida-housing-law-sb-264>.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

AAPI New Jersey
AAPI Victory Alliance
Action Corps
American Civil Liberties Union
American Friends Service Committee
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta
Asian American Civic Association
Asian American Federal Employees for Nondiscrimination
Asian American Federation
Asian American Federation of Florida
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Asian Caribbean Exchange
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Texans for Justice
Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research
Chinese-American Planning Council
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Committee of 100
Comunidades Sin Fronteras CSF- CT INC
Dear Asian Youth
Defending Rights & Dissent
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities
Florida Asian American Justice Alliance
Florida Asian Services
Hmong Innovating Politics
Japanese American Citizens League
Justice is Global
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Muslim Advocates
Muslims for Just Futures
National Asian Pacific American Families Allied for Substance Awareness and Harm Reduction
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans
National Federation of Filipino American Associations
National Immigration Law Center
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, Central Virginia
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, Greater Chicago
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, Houston
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, South Florida
OPAWL – Building AAPI Feminist Leadership

Pacific Asian Counseling Services
Peace Action
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
The Sikh Coalition
Stop AAPI Hate
Thai Community Development Center
Win Without War
Woori Juntos