

07.01.2025

Grassley Releases Bombshell Records Showing FBI Headquarters Interfered with Alleged Chinese Election Interference Probe to Shield Christopher Wray from Political Blowback.

WASHINGTON – Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) today released internal [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\) emails](#) revealing the FBI suppressed intelligence of alleged Chinese interference in the 2020 election to insulate then-FBI Director Christopher Wray from criticism, after Wray provided inaccurate and contradictory testimony to Congress.

The FBI declassified and provided the requested records to Grassley, along with an accompanying [cover letter](#), after Grassley initially received some information from whistleblower disclosures. The FBI emails offer an inside look at the Bureau's decision to [recall](#) and suppress an [Intelligence Information Report \(IIR\)](#) from the FBI's Albany Field Office on September 25, 2020. The IIR contained information from an FBI Confidential Human Source (CHS) alleging the Chinese government was producing "tens of thousands" of fraudulent drivers' licenses to manufacture mail-in votes for then-presidential candidate Joe Biden in the 2020 election.

According to the FBI, these allegations, despite showing initial signs of credibility, were allegedly never fully investigated due to the FBI's sudden and "abnormal" decision to halt the investigation and bury the IIR's existence, preventing any additional FBI field offices, as well as other Intelligence Community elements, from accessing or studying the document. The FBI's stated reason for doing so was because **"the reporting will contradict Director Wray's testimony."**

"These records smack of political decision-making and prove the Wray-led FBI to be a deeply broken institution. Ahead of a high-stakes election happening amid an unprecedented global pandemic, the FBI turned its back on its national security mission," **Grassley said**. "One way or the other, intelligence must be fully investigated to determine whether it's true, or if it's just smoke and mirrors. Chris Wray's FBI wasn't looking out for the American people – it was looking to save its own image. Now's the time to rebuild the FBI's trust. Director Patel's willingness to work with me to establish renewed transparency and accountability is a critical part of that process, and I applaud him for his efforts."

Political Reasoning

Following the IIR's recall, an FBI Albany intelligence analyst summarized the concerning series of events that led to the suppression:

"Most concerning to me, is stating the reporting would contradict with Director Wray's testimony. **I found this troubling because it implied to me that one of the reasons we aren't putting this out is for a political reason, which goes directly against our organization's mission to remain apolitical and simply state what we know.**

Likewise, at the field operational level, I do not feel it is our job to assess whether or not our intelligence aligns with the Director.... My concern is that I think it gets dangerous if we cite potential political implications as reasons for not putting out our information.”

Source Credibility

An FBI Albany official noted “the IIR was coordinated and disseminated in textbook fashion.” Further, a re-interview of the FBI CHS yielded additional context that supported the initial IIR’s findings. An FBI Albany official described the CHS as “competent” and “authentic in his/her reporting.” The CHS described the confidence in his/her sub-sourcing as a “9-10 range. [V]ery, very confident.”

Decision for Recall

According to an Assistant Section Chief in the FBI’s Counterintelligence Division, the IIR immediately generated “a lot of attention from all [Headquarter] divisions.”

Upon receiving the IIR, an FBI Albany official stated, “We have no reason to recall at this point.” Minutes later, the Albany Field Office was commanded to recall the IIR at the direct request of officials at FBI Headquarters, including Nikki Floris, then-Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) of the FBI’s Counterintelligence Division. Months before dismissing the IIR, Floris provided an unnecessary briefing to Grassley and Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) regarding their investigation into the Biden family. The briefing – though classified – was later leaked to the press in an effort to falsely smear the senators’ investigation as Russian disinformation.

Following the IIR’s recall, FBI Headquarters informed field offices that “all raw reporting concerning the election will now require [Headquarters] coordination,” which had not been previously required.

Contradictory Testimony

During sworn testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee (HSGAC) on September 24, 2020, Wray stated:

“I think what I would say is this: **We take all election-related threats seriously**, whether it is voter fraud, voter suppression, whether it is in person, whether it is by mail. And our role is to investigate the threat actors. **Now, we have not seen historically any kind of coordinated national voter fraud effort in a major election, whether it is by mail or otherwise...** [B]ut people should make no mistake we are vigilant as to the threat and watching it carefully, because we are in uncharted new territory.”

Wray doubled down on his assertion in response to further questioning from HSGAC Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-Mich.).

Peters: “Right, but your answer is clear. **You have not seen any widespread fraud by mail.** It is something the FBI watches continuously to make sure that that is not happening.”

Wray: “**That is something that we would investigate seriously.**”

Peters: “Absolutely.”

Wray: “**And aggressively.**”

FITF-China Prevents Further Follow-up

On October 8, 2020, an official with the FBI’s Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF)-China division confirmed FITF-China had still not approved a reissue of the IIR. Despite FITF-China offering to “discuss next steps” for the IIR, the FBI on June 27, 2025 confirmed to Grassley that they had “found no information to indicate that FITF-China aggressively investigated the reported information, despite corroborating intergovernmental reporting and logical investigative leads.”

Wray established FITF with the stated goal to “identify and counteract malign foreign influence operations targeting the United States.” Grassley called the Trump administration’s recent decision to close FITF “a positive step, given what the task force had been twisted into,” noting specifically its conduct against his and Senator Johnson’s Biden family investigation.

