# House Republicans Accuse NIH Officials of Evading Public Records Laws in Covid-19 Origin Investigation



House Republicans have accused National Institutes of Health (NIH) officials of attempting to evade public records laws, centered on senior advisers to Dr. Anthony Fauci and their handling of correspondence related to the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic. This investigation has spotlighted emails from Dr. David Morens, a former adviser to Dr. Fauci, who suggested strategies to hide emails from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests with the alleged help of NIH's federal records office.

Dr. Morens has been noted in private emails discussing how to delete messages and suggesting the NIH’s FOIA office was complicit. These emails also involved communication with Peter Daszak, president of EcoHealth Alliance, a group heavily scrutinized for its work with Chinese scientists.

Additional instances reveal Greg Folkers, another NIH official, intentionally misspelled words to avoid email detection during FOIA searches. House Republicans have requested briefings with NIH and the National Archives to scrutinize these transparency practices further.

While these allegations have prompted concerns about transparency and accountability, they have yet to establish a link between NIH-funded research and the Covid-19 outbreak.