# Dr. Anthony Fauci Testifies on COVID-19 Origins and U.S. Response



Dr. Anthony Fauci, former head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), testified publicly before a House subcommittee on June 3, 2024. The questioning, led by Republican lawmakers, centered on the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic and the U.S. response. This followed over a year of the subcommittee’s investigations, which included the role of U.S.-funded research in China.

Democrats asserted that no evidence indicated Fauci's wrongdoing but emphasized missed opportunities for future pandemic preparedness. Fauci, who retired from government service in 2022, previously endured 14 hours of closed-door testimony in January.

During the hearing, Fauci reiterated his stance on being open to theories about the virus's origin, while noting more evidence supporting natural origins. He also refuted claims that his agency funded "gain of function" research at a Wuhan lab, stressing the definition related to risky experiments.

Contentious moments included questioning about Fauci’s credibility and personal allegations from Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who criticized his handling of masking policies and claimed he had engaged in unethical scientific practices. Fauci denied using personal email for official business and addressed the personal toll the controversy had taken on him and his family, including death threats they received.

Overall, the hearing delved into policy decisions, funding, and research ethics amid ongoing debates about the pandemic's origins.