

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216  
(202) 225-3951  
judiciary.house.gov

August 11, 2021

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

On July 14, 2021, the Cato Institute reported that it had obtained a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) document detailing a “Charity Assessment” of Concerned Women for America (CWA) conducted by the FBI’s Washington Field Office.<sup>1</sup> Significant portions of the document are redacted, but it shows that the FBI examined CWA in July 2016 for potential financial crimes merely because third-party charity rating services deemed the charity to be “underperform[ing].”<sup>2</sup> While CWA is a domestic organization that advocates for certain policies at the federal, state, and local levels, the document also notes that there was an “Intelligence” component to the FBI’s assessment.<sup>3</sup> The assessment ultimately recommended against opening an investigation into CWA.

This document raises serious questions about the FBI’s targeting of domestic civil society organizations on the basis of a third-party opinion, and not any credible allegation of a crime. During your recent appearance before our Committee, you testified that the FBI “investigate[s] individuals with proper predication” and does not “investigate First Amendment groups . . . [or] people for speech, association, for assembly, [or] for membership in domestic First Amendment groups.”<sup>4</sup> The existence of this assessment, however, raises a question of whether the policy you described at the hearing was in place at the FBI in July 2016 under then-Director Comey and whether these “charity assessments” continue in some form today.

To assist the Committee in conducting oversight of the FBI’s assessment of CWA and its use of such assessments more broadly, please provide the following information:

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<sup>1</sup> See Patrick G. Eddington, *The FBI’s Unjustified Targeting of Concerned Women for America*, CATO INSTITUTE (Jul. 14, 2021). The document was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request. *See Id.*

<sup>2</sup> See Charity Assessment: Concerned Women for America, Federal Bureau of Investigation (Jul. 5, 2016) (on file with the Committee).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*; see also *What We Do*, CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA, <https://concernedwomen.org/what-we-do-2/>.

<sup>4</sup> *Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Hearing before the H. Comm. on the Judiciary*, 117th Cong. (2021).

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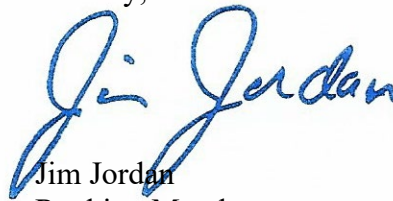
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1. An unredacted copy of the FBI electronic communication titled “Charity Assessment: Concerned Women for America” dated July 5, 2016;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the FBI’s assessment of CWA;
3. A staff-level briefing on the FBI’s assessment of CWA, including when it began, when it concluded, the basis for conducting the assessment, and what methods were used to conduct the assessment;
4. An accounting of all assessments conducted by the FBI since January 1, 2016, including the identity of the target, the predicate for undertaking the assessment, and whether the assessment led to the opening of a formal investigation; and
5. Unredacted copies of all “Charity Assessments” conducted by the FBI between January 1, 2016, and the present.

Please provide this information and briefing as soon as possible but not later than 5:00 p.m. on August 24, 2021. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Chairman