

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 20, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
Department of Justice

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Attorney General Garland and Director Wray:

According to a July 5, 2016, FBI Electronic Communication (EC) from the Washington Field Office, the FBI conducted an “assessment” on the non-profit group, Concerned Women for America (CWA). That assessment was publicly reported on July 14, 2021.¹ The EC noted that the assessment was done “to determine the possibility of fraudulent activity” relating to “embezzlement” and “corporate fraud” and also noted an “[i]ntelligence” aspect to the FBI’s review.² Much of the EC is redacted; however, the unredacted portions cause serious concern about the FBI potentially targeting CWA without a sufficient basis. For example, the EC notes that part of the predicate for the assessment included the fact that CWA allegedly received a score of 70.45 from Charity Navigator and an alleged two-star rating. The EC also noted that the FBI could not locate any derogatory information on CWA and its officers in what may be searchable government databases, which are blocked by redactions. The EC concludes with a recommendation that the FBI not open an investigation into CWA.

Based on the unredacted information that’s been made public to-date, I’m concerned about the basis upon which the FBI initiated an assessment of CWA and the authorities it relied on to do so. Unfortunately, as the country has witnessed in the recent past, including the Crossfire Hurricane investigation and the Larry Nassar investigation, the FBI has repeatedly failed in its mission and abused its authority. The federal government wields immense surveillance ability and Congress, especially this committee, has an obligation to ensure that it is used properly and in accordance with all laws and regulations.

¹ Patrick Eddington, *The FBI’s unjustified targeting of Concerned Women for America*, The Orange County Register (July 14, 2021), <https://www.ocregister.com/2021/07/14/the-fbis-unjustified-targeting-of-concerned-women-for-america/>

² *Id.*

Accordingly, in order to better assess the full extent of activity the FBI engaged in with respect to CWA, please provide the following no later than August 3, 2021:

1. Please provide a complete and unredacted copy of the July 5, 2016, FBI Electronic Communication on CWA.
2. Please provide a full description of all activities the FBI engaged in with respect to CWA and what the FBI believed to be the authorized purpose to engage in such activity.
3. On what date did the FBI begin the assessment of CWA and why? On what date did the FBI close the assessment?
4. Please provide all Electronic Communications and related records, including 302s, with respect to CWA.
5. Please provide a list of all agencies that the FBI interfaced with during its assessment of CWA.
6. For each year dating back to January 1, 2016, how many “assessments” did the FBI perform? Please provide a list for each year and note what type of assessment was conducted and the party subject to the assessment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Josh Flynn-Brown of my Committee staff at 202-224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary