The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
Vice Chairman  
Select Committee on Intelligence  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Vice Chairman Warner:

This responds to your letter, dated April 2, 2020, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding FBI engagement with members of the Asian American community.

The FBI considers strong community engagement to be a vital tool in combatting the counterintelligence threat posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC). As mentioned in your letter, the FBI engages with Congress on this important topic through briefings, written correspondence, and hearing testimony. For example, on June 26, 2019, then-Counterintelligence Division Assistant Director John A. Brown and Cyber Division Assistant Director Frankland M. Gorham met with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. During that discussion, Mr. Brown and Mr. Gorham emphasized the severity of the counterintelligence threat posed by Communist China. Mr. Brown and Mr. Gorham also highlighted the importance of raising awareness of the PRC economic espionage threat in the Asian American community and facilitating trust between Asian American leaders and law enforcement.

With that in mind, the FBI welcomes the opportunity to work with Chinese and Asian American organizations across the country on communication and outreach strategies to reach people in the United States who are most vulnerable to pressure and coercion from the PRC. Additionally, the FBI’s 56 field offices will continue to prioritize outreach with the Asian American community. We remain concerned about Chinese students, researchers, and visitors working and studying in the United States who face an ever-menacing Chinese Government committed to using threats, intimidation, and coercion against them. The FBI firmly opposes the aggressive tactics of any hostile nation-state willing to violate international norms of fairness and justice in its pursuit of economic and political domination.
The FBI believes that in cooperation with Congress and Asian American organizations, we can reach our most vulnerable communities and help them stand up to the PRC. Such collaboration can enable all Asian Americans to live free and open lives in the United States with the knowledge that we are committed to ensuring their safety and security. We look forward to continuing to engage with Asian American organizations and communities at the national and local levels.

Thank you for your support of the FBI, its mission, and its people.

Sincerely,

Jill C. Tyson
Assistant Director
Office of Congressional Affairs