



Statement by Tennessee Chinese American Alliance

for The Democratic Member Roundtable

**Researching while Chinese American: Ethnic Profiling, Chinese American Scientists, and a
New American Brain Drain**

House Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

June 30, 2021

Chairman Raskin, Chairwoman Chu, and members of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC):

Tennessee Chinese American Alliance (TCAA) is a coalition of concerned citizens and permanent residents of Chinese descent, and Chinese associations across Tennessee including Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville.

We applaud your initiative to hold this important roundtable, which is the first Congressional proceeding where the plight of Chinese American scientists and the human and scientific costs of racial profiling will be heard.

We especially would like to call for your attention to the recent trial of Dr. Anming Hu (*United States v. Hu*; Case No. 3:20-CR-00021) at Knoxville, Tennessee. The court declared it a mistrial on June 16, 2021 when the jury reached a deadlock. It is clear from this result that a number of jurors recognized the deep flaws of this case. Testimonies from the trial has alarmingly revealed the FBI's violation of Dr. Hu's civil rights and misconduct during the investigation. Dr. Hu was a professor at the University of Tennessee (UTK) and a member of our local community. The following are the exact quotes from a [Knoxville News Sentinel article](#)¹ about the trial of Dr. Hu.

"FBI Agent Kujtim Sadiku admitted last week in an ongoing trial in Knoxville that federal agents:

- 1. Falsely accused former UTK associate professor Dr. Anming Hu of being a Chinese spy;*
- 2. Falsely implicated him as an operative for the Chinese military in meetings with Hu's employer and supervisors;*
- 3. Used false information to put Hu on the federal no-fly list;*
- 4. Spread rumors throughout the international research community that HU was poison;*
- 5. Used false information to justify putting a team of agents to surveillance Hu and his son, a freshman at UTK, for nearly two years; and*
- 6. Used false information to press Hu to become a spy for the U.S. government."*

¹ [Federal agents falsely accused UT professor of spying for China \(knoxnews.com\)](#) accessed 2021-06-28

Please see attached court transcript for further details of Agent Sadiku's admitted misconducts.

We write to request the followings:

1. We ask that the Department of Justice DOJ drops the case against Dr. Hu. It is a deeply flawed case that should have never been brought forth. The case is based on false accusations. It has had brought catastrophic impact on an innocent scientist and his family.
2. We call on your support for an investigation into the misconducts of FBI agents, improper investigation procedures at DOJ, their probable abuse of power, and violation of civil and human rights of innocent individuals.
3. We also ask you to review DOJ's controversial "China Initiative" and demand a moratorium on "China Initiative" until a White House review is completed. Dr. Hu is not alone being victimized. There are perhaps thousands of scientists who are facing similar investigations and potential injustices.

The FBI's false allegation has traumatized Dr. Hu and his family. Dr. Hu is a husband and father of three children. Not only was he subject to surveillance, but also his son who was only a freshman at UTK. UTK suspended and terminated his tenured position. His reputation as a hardworking scientist was ruined. Fifteen months' house arrest has significantly damaged his health. His H1B visa and his permanent residence applications were postponed due to the red flag of FBI and finally closed due to the false indictment against him. As a result, his son's immigration status was impacted, and he was unable to continue his studies. His family was left in shambles after his arrest. The whole family faces deep emotional, mental, and financial hardships from this injustice. The mistrial has not brought an end to this case. Dr. Hu continues to be separated from his family and they are still living in agony awaiting either a decision from the federal government to drop and retrial the case or from the judge on a renewed motion to dismiss. Moreover, even if justice is served and Dr. Hu's case is dropped, he suffered irreparable damage to his career and still faces future immigration consequences as a result of this case. The mental and emotional scars to Dr. Hu and his family are lifelong.

The China Initiative and Dr. Hu's case have created chilling effects on the Knoxville Chinese community and Chinese Americans across the country. For example, many scientists have stopped applying for federal grants from DOE and NASA for fear of unwarranted scrutiny. Some Chinese scientists have left the US or are considering returning to China for fear of persecution. Many students and scholars from China are avoiding UTK. These effects have caused long term damage to the capacity of scientific research at UTK. In addition, it has resulted in a loss of confidence in the fairness and impartiality of our government law enforcement among our community.

Dr. Hu' case is the first trial under the DOJ's "China Initiative." His case is indicative of the fundamental flaws of "China Initiative" and how the concerns of racial profiling has instilled fear among the Asian American and immigrant community nationwide especially locally in Tennessee. The "China Initiative" allegedly aims to combat economic espionage from the People's Republic of China (PRC), but in reality, has singled out scientists and researchers of Asian and Chinese descent based on the misguided perception that their ethnicity, race, or ancestry make them prone to espionage, leading to racial profiling. Racial profiling has its historical roots and is a form of anti-Asian hate and discrimination. It

must be stopped with timely actions and continuing oversight to prevent further erosion of our civil rights and civil liberties.

We respectfully urge you to address the concerns we have provided above.

Sincerely,

Tennessee Chinese American Alliance (TCAA)

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Attachments:


6.10.21 EXCERPT OF
TESTIMONY OF SAD


6.11.21 EXCERPT OF
TESTIMONY OF SAD