



SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CCP

DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

September 8, 2025

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
1500 Tysons McLean Drive
McLean, VA 22102

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Gabbard and Director Patel:

The electronic impersonation of federal officials is a growing and alarming trend. Earlier this summer, I wrote to Secretary Rubio expressing concern regarding an unidentified bad actor's attempt to use deepfake technology to impersonate him.¹ Specifically, "an impostor pretending to be Rubio . . . contacted at least five non-Department officials, including three foreign ministers, a U.S. governor, and a U.S. member of Congress."² Yesterday, this phenomenon hit even closer to home. As reported in the *Wall Street Journal*, "[s]everal trade groups, law firms and U.S. government agencies . . . all received an email appearing to be from the [House Select Committee on the CCP's] [C]hairman, Rep. John Moolenaar The cybersecurity firm Mandiant determined . . . spyware [embedded in an attachment to the email] would allow the hackers to burrow deep into the targeted organizations if any of the recipients had opened the purported draft legislation."³

Unlike the Rubio incident, however, the hacking attempt involving Chairman Moolenaar has been attributed in news reports to a specific threat actor: APT41, a hacking group affiliated with the Ministry of State Security, which conducts intelligence operations on behalf of the People's Republic of China (PRC).⁴ While the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) routinely condemns the Select Committee's work, impersonating its leadership in an attempt to infiltrate the computer networks of U.S. organizations and agencies represents a profound escalation. As the Ranking Member of the Select Committee, I stand firmly with the Chairman in condemning this illegal and sanctionable act.

¹ *Krishnamoorthy Seeks Answers from State Department on AI Deepfake Targeting Secretary Rubio*, Select Committee on the CCP Democrats (July 14, 2025). <https://democrats-selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-selectcommitteeontheccp.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/scc-minority-letter-re-rubio-deepfake.pdf>

² John Hudson & Hannah Natanson, *A Marco Rubio imposter is using AI voice to call high-level officials*, The Washington Post (July 8, 2025). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/07/08/marco-rubio-ai-imposter-signal/>

³ Joel Schectman, *Chinese Hackers Pretended to Be a Top U.S. Lawmaker During Trade Talks*, The Wall Street Journal (September 7, 2025). https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/china-trade-talks-spy-5c4801ca?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=ASWzDAh0_vzjeBC5VOJhBA1SSrnorlCctQWgdPc8K6FiJoleCJYcr2CbU0H0kT-IPY%3D&gaa_ts=68bde53c&gaa_sig=wG6h004tHUEhfyvmYqItxCvZeP8A_J2-hAXj6zBzVizVROftsaUyK38FcC4F7bT1pgyphPK4hujZFOSfLhY6Yw%3D%3D

⁴ Id.



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Under 18 U.S.C 1912, “[w]hoever falsely assumes or pretends to be an officer or employee acting under the authority of the United States or any department, agency or officer thereof, and acts as such, or in such pretended character demands or obtains any money, paper, document, or thing of value, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.”⁵ The reported electronic impersonation of Chairman Moolenaar certainly appears to meet this criteria. Moreover, affiliates of groups like APT41 have repeatedly been sanctioned by the U.S. Government for offensive cyber operations against the United States.

However, exploring potential paths to hold the CCP accountable for this hacking attempt is not enough. This incident not only posed an immediate cyber risk to the recipients of the fake emails, but presents an ongoing threat to trust in congressional communications, given the newfound skepticism legitimate emails from my Committee may face given the CCP’s attempts to impersonate its leadership. And unfortunately, I fear Chairman Moolenaar’s impersonation by a CCP hacking group may merely be the tip of the iceberg. It is reasonable to presume this impersonation attempt is not the first time this has happened, and it certainly will not be the last.

Congress urgently requires full transparency regarding this alarming incident, as well as all other suspected impersonations of Members of Congress by PRC intelligence agencies and their affiliates. Needless to say, brazen hacking attempts such as this, under the pretense of official congressional communications, have a direct bearing on our work. Accordingly, I respectfully request a classified briefing from ODNI and the FBI on the following questions by no later than September 30, 2025.

1. How many Members of Congress have been impersonated by the CCP via email or other electronic means? Please be prepared to name all such Members and the PRC-based hacking groups believed to be behind such incidents, if known.
2. To the extent APT41 is in fact the threat actor behind the impersonation of the Chairman, has APT41 impersonated any other U.S. officials using similar email messages?
3. To the best of your knowledge, have any U.S.-based organizations or agencies been successfully compromised or hacked as a result of a CCP-affiliated impersonation of a Member of Congress or other U.S. official?
4. Please describe what steps are being taken to investigate such incidents and hold those behind them accountable.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the CCP

⁵ 18 U.S.C. § 912