

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
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ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927

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June 11, 2020

Eric Yuan  
Founder and CEO  
Zoom Video Communications, Inc.  
55 Almaden Boulevard, 6th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

Mr. Yuan:

We write regarding Zoom's recent decision to close the account of a group of prominent U.S.-based Chinese activists after they held an event commemorating the 31st anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre.<sup>1</sup> Zoom acknowledged that it closed the account and defended this action by stating such decision was made to "comply with local law."<sup>2</sup> This suggests Zoom, a U.S. company, closed the account at the direction of the Chinese government, which forbids free discussion of the 1989 Tiananmen pro-democracy movement. Such coordination with, or even acquiescence to the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party alarms us, especially since Zoom admitted that some data on non-China users had been routed through China earlier this year and researchers found your encryption used keys issued via servers in China.<sup>3</sup>

Zoom's recent actions and acquiescence to China raise serious concerns about your data practices, including how you protect information you collect on Americans and, importantly, who you grant access to such information. Accordingly, please provide written answers and any related documentation to the following questions no later than June 26, 2020:

#### Questions Related to Zoom's Data Practices:

1. As a U.S.-based company, please cite the "local law" you claim to have complied with to justify suppressing the free speech of U.S.-based Chinese activists and identify the date on which you reinstated the accounts of such activists.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.axios.com/zoom-closes-chinese-user-account-tiananmen-square-f218fed1-69af-4bdd-aac4-7eaf67f34084.html>

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.businessinsider.com/china-zoom-data-2020-4>

2. Please explain how Zoom collects information on Americans and what specific categories of information is collected.
3. Please explain why Zoom collects the specific categories of information it collects on Americans and for what purposes such information is collected.
4. Please identify the categories of third parties Zoom shares information it collects on Americans and explain for what purpose such information is shared to those third parties.
5. For any information Zoom collects on Americans, please answer the following:
  - a. Does Zoom share such information with the Chinese Communist Party? If yes, please explain what information is shared, why such information is shared, and under what circumstances such information is shared.
  - b. Does the Chinese Communist Party have access, either directly or indirectly, to such information? If yes, please explain.
  - c. Does Zoom share such information with any Chinese state-owned entity? If yes, please identify the categories of such entities.
  - d. Do any Chinese state-owned entities have access, either directly or indirectly, to such information?
  - e. Does Zoom maintain and store such information in China?
6. Does Zoom have a data sharing agreement with the Chinese Communist Party or any Chinese state-owned entity? If yes, please explain what the agreement covers and why.
7. Please identify each country Zoom sends, maintains, or stores information collected on Americans. For each country, please identify whether the government or an entity on behalf of such government has access to such information.
8. Please identify all examples of Zoom taking directions from or acquiescing to requests of the Chinese government, including whether Zoom has closed other user accounts or suppressed political content.
9. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, please answer the following:
  - a. Due to the increase in users in recent months, has Zoom implemented any additional safeguards to protect information it collects on American users? If yes, please explain.
  - b. Due to the increase in users in recent months, has Zoom changed how it processes information collected on American users, including any changes to where such

information is transferred and stored? If yes, please explain what changes have been made and why.

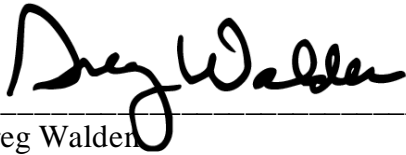
- c. Does Zoom collect any health information about American users? If yes, please explain why and for what purposes.
- d. Has Zoom received any requests to alter, delete, or block content that runs counter to the official line of the Chinese government in response to its handling of the COVID-19 crisis?

10. Please answer the following questions with respect to encryption:

- a. Does Zoom encrypt communications on your platform? If yes, please provide in detail the levels of encryption you provide for each of your products.
- b. It has been reported that Zoom's encryption has used keys issued via servers in China. Is this accurate? If yes, please explain.

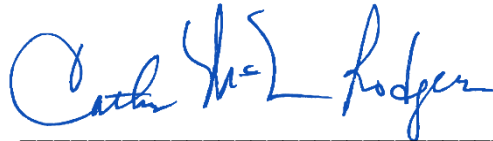
If you have any questions, please contact Tim Kurth and Bijan Koohmaraie at (202) 225-3641. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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Greg Walden  
Republican Leader



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Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce