

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4312

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Becerra,

I write in response to the request for comment on the negotiations of the World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Preparedness Agreement by the World Health Assembly's Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB).¹

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the corruption at the WHO, its deep-rooted ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and its stranglehold on the American public health regime. Indeed, the WHO ignored Taiwan's early warnings about the spread of COVID-19 and instead trumpeted CCP propaganda expressing there was "no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission."² WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus even praised China's leaders for their transparency and cooperation, all while the CCP was silencing early whistleblowers in Wuhan like Dr. Li Wenliang.³ To this day, the WHO has been reticent to fully and unbiasedly investigate the origins of COVID-19, despite the Department of Energy determining COVID-19 "likely arose from a laboratory leak."^{4,5}

Further, the WHO pushed unproven public health practices such as cloth masks and arbitrary "social distancing" on the general public.^{6,7} Worse, the WHO advocated for dangerous COVID-19 vaccine "passports" and silencing Americans for sharing so-called "misinformation" that conflicted with the WHO's positions.⁸

In light of these facts, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of State – the leaders of the United States delegation to the INB – should cease all efforts to further legitimize this corrupt body through the crafting of a new global pandemic treaty.

This proposed agreement stands in opposition to our country's founding principles. Instead of holding the WHO accountable for its actions during COVID-19, the INB's proposal would further empower it as the authority on "international health work" with the power to craft global responses.⁹ This treaty would also stifle free speech by committing parties to "combat false, misleading, misinformation or disinformation"

¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/12/22/2023-28341/notice-and-request-for-comments-on-the-implications-of-access-and-benefit-sharing-abs#further-info>

² <https://x.com/WHO/status/1217043229427761152?s=20>

³ <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN1ZS2E8/>

⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-00283-y>

⁵ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-origin-china-lab-leak-807b7b0a>

⁶ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

⁷ <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/covid-19/information/physical-distancing>

⁸ <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-06-2023-the-european-commission-and-who-launch-landmark-digital-health-initiative-to-strengthen-global-health-security>

⁹ https://apps.who.int/gb/inb/pdf_files/inb7/A_INB7_3-en.pdf

through international collaboration.¹⁰ Under no circumstances should we empower the bureaucrats in Geneva to govern the speech of American citizens – remember, HHS itself promoted misinformation on COVID-19 vaccine efficacy as it relates to transmission and the durability of natural immunity.¹¹

Further, this new agreement could disincentivize vital healthcare research and innovation. The treaty calls on parties to give away patent and intellectual property rights on pandemic-related items to benefit developing countries – which would notably include China.¹² We should harness the power of America's ingenuity – not stifle it to empower another international organization, let alone our adversaries. For these reasons, and many others, the Biden administration should cease all attempts to make the United States party to this agreement.

Notwithstanding the numerous troubling provisions in INB's proposed agreement, if the administration continues to move forward with these ill-advised negotiations, any resulting INB agreement or treaty must be submitted to the Senate for advice and consent as required by Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution. Our founders wisely empowered the Senate with the authority to sign off on international agreements to ensure the country is not rushed into a treaty without significant discussion in Congress. Any effort to circumvent Congress and join any WHO-related agreement or treaty would be an affront to the Constitution.

Instead of further legitimizing the WHO by making the United States a party to a new pandemic treaty, the Biden administration should withdraw from this organization (as the previous administration wisely did), cease all support for the WHO, and hold it accountable for its myriad failures. Americans should be empowered to make healthcare decisions that are in the best interests of themselves and their loved ones – not the bureaucrats in Geneva.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chip Roy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chip Roy
Member of Congress

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ https://www.msnbc.com/transcripts/transcript-rachel-maddow-show-3-29-21-n1262442?utm_content=buffer7fb12&utm_medium=Arianna&utm_source=LinkedIn&utm_campaign=Buffer

¹² <https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/report/why-the-us-should-oppose-the-new-draft-who-pandemic-treaty>