

May 22, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20500

*Subject:* Joint Governors' Response to Proposed Amendments to the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (IHR) and a New Pandemic Treaty

Dear Mr. President,

We, as governors of our respective states, stand united in opposition to two proposed instruments currently under negotiation that would purport to grant the World Health Organization (WHO) unprecedented and unconstitutional powers over the United States and its people. These proposed changes could drastically change the role of governors in response to their charge as the state health officials.

These proposed accords aim to significantly alter the amendments to the WHO's existing International Health Regulations (IHRs) and introduce a new "Pandemic Agreement" (Treaty) that would undermine national sovereignty, infringe upon states' rights, and jeopardize constitutionally guaranteed freedoms.

The objective of these instruments is to empower the WHO, particularly its uncontrollable Director-General, with the authority to restrict the rights of U.S. citizens, including freedoms such as speech, privacy, travel, choice of medical care, and informed consent, thus violating our Constitution's core principles.

If adopted, these agreements would seek to elevate the WHO from an advisory body to a global authority in public health. Under the proposed amendments and treaty, the WHO's Director-General would supposedly gain unilateral power to declare a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC) in member nations, extending beyond pandemics to include a range of perceived emergencies.

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Furthermore, these instruments would erode sovereignty by granting the WHO's Director-General the authority to dictate responses to a declared PHEIC, stripping elected representatives of their role in setting public health policies and compelling citizens to comply with WHO directives, potentially including mandates regarding medical treatments.

Additional concerns arise regarding the establishment of a global surveillance infrastructure and requirements for member states to censor speech related to public health, potentially facilitating the proliferation of biological weapons.

As governors, we affirm that public health policy is a matter reserved for the states, not the federal government, and certainly not international bodies like the WHO. We are committed to resisting any attempts to transfer authority to the WHO over public policy affecting our citizens or any efforts by the WHO to assert such authority over them.

Sincerely,

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Governor Kay Ivey State of Alabama

Governor Ron DeSantis State of Florida

Governor Eric Holcomb State of Indiana

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Governor Tate Reeves State of Mississippi

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Governor Mike Dunleavy State of Alaska

Governor Brian Kemp State of Georgia

Governor Kim Reynolds State of Iowa

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Governor Greg Gianforte State of Montana

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Governor Sarah Sanders State of Arkansas

Governor Brad Little State of Idaho

Governor Jeff Landry State of Louisiana

Governor Jim Pillen State of Nebraska

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Governor Joe Lombardo State of Nevada

Governor Kevin Stitt State of Oklahoma

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Governor Bill Lee State of Tennessee

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Governor Greg Abbott State of Texas

Governor Jim Justice State of West Virginia

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Governor Doug Burgum State of North Dakota

Governor Kristi Noem State of South Dakota

Governor Spencer Cox State of Utah

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Governor Mark Gordon State of Wyoming