



# DAVE JOYCE

Representing the 14th District of Ohio

Thank you for contacting me about the World Health Organization (WHO) World Health Assembly event. Your thoughts on this matter are most welcomed and appreciated.

As you may know, the World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of the WHO. This annual meeting is attended by representatives from all WHO member nations, and focuses on a specific health agenda. This year, President Biden submitted several proposals to the International Health Regulations (IHR), which provide an overarching legal framework that defines countries' rights and obligations in handling public health events and emergencies that have the potential to cross borders. The proposed amendments were originally developed under the Trump Administration, and allow for the timely and transparent release of critical information when dangerous pathogens are identified. The changes also protect member states from bad actors who obscure public health policies within their borders. The Trump Administration drafted these amendments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as the Chinese Communist Party was able to dictate which information was released to the WHO under the current IHRs. I believe that we cannot allow authoritarian regimes like China to hide critical health data that could threaten the lives of Americans, as well as U.S. national security and the U.S. economy.

I would not support any legislation or proposals that would cede United States sovereignty to an international organization. The WHO does not have the authority to enforce public health laws within a country's borders; it creates standards that are influential, but not legally binding. The IHR amendments do not, in any way, supersede domestic law and the right for the United States to implement its own legislation in accordance with WHO regulations.

If adopted, these amendments would:

- Allow the WHO to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) without the agreement of the member state where the outbreak is occurring
- ~~If member states do not unanimously declare a PHEIC, then the nonconsenting states are required to create their own reports~~, so all opinions of the health incident can be included. This does not mean the WHO can implement any actions of a nonconsenting state, it means that the WHO can share information with other states without approval from the state where the public health emergency is occurring
- Increases the transparency of the WHO to rectify the disastrous mistakes made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, I do not have jurisdiction over the amendments submitted to the WHO. However, I can assure you that should any legislation come to the House floor relating to this issue, I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind. I am honored to continue representing you in Congress and can assure you that I will never stop fighting for a better tomorrow for you and your family. Please feel free to contact me or my office anytime to share your thoughts or concerns. I always appreciate hearing from people about the issues that are impacting their lives and it's helpful for me to know your perspective on important topics.

Once again, thank you for contacting me. Should you have additional comments or questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at my Mentor, Twinsburg, or Washington, D.C. office. I also invite you to stay up to date on other important matters before Congress by signing up for my weekly email newsletter, the Weekly Wrap, which you can do by clicking the Sign Up button below.

Sincerely,

Rep. David Joyce  
Member of Congress