

The following statements were made by Representative Michael McCaul in support of the amendments to the International Health Regulations that were proposed by the Biden administration.

“The amendments were originally developed under the Trump Administration.”

“If adopted, it would allow the WHO... to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) without the agreement of the member state in question where the outbreak is occurring.”

“The WHO can declare a PHEIC and share information with other states without the approval of the state in which the incident is happening.”

Representative McCaul seems to support authoritarian rule. Perhaps he wants that rule to apply only to China, but he seems to be unaware that the same dictatorial control could be used against the United States and all other member nations.

The following false information was provided by Representative Michael McCaul:

*“If the emergency committee does not come to their conclusion to declare a PHEIC unanimously, nonconsenting members of the committee are **required** to create their own report which will be included within the final report, providing for inclusion of all opinions of the health incident in question.”*

The actual wording in Article 49 of the proposed amendments is below:

*3 bis. If the Emergency Committee is not unanimous in its findings, any member **shall be entitled** to express his or her dissenting professional views in an individual or group report, which shall state the reasons why a divergent opinion is held and shall form part of the Emergency Committee’s report.*

“Required” is not the same as **“shall be entitled.”**

The following false information was provided by Representative Michael McCaul:

“at least one member must be from the state in question.”

The actual wording in Article 48 of the proposed amendments is below:

*“Members of the Emergency Committee **should** include be an at least one expert nominated by a the State Party within whose territory the event arises.*

“Should” is not the same as **“must.”**



MICHAEL McCAUL

Representing the 10th District of Texas

Support for amendments

~~Incorrect Information~~

What the amendments do: The proposed changes to the International Health Regulation (IHRs) would allow for timely and transparent release of critical information when dangerous pathogens are identified, or a global health threat emerges. The changes would protect member states from bad actors who seek to obfuscate health incidences within their borders.

The amendments were originally developed under the Trump Administration. Under the current IHRs, during the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan province, the Chinese Communist Party was able to dictate what information was released to and by the World Health Organization. We cannot allow rogue regimes and authoritarian leaders to hide critical health data, particularly where a lack of such data would threaten the lives of Americans, as well as U.S. national security and the U.S. economy.

What the amendments do NOT do: It does not, in any way change or supersede U.S. law and the sovereign right for the United States to, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, to legislate and to implement legislation in pursuance of their health regulations.

Topline points:

- If adopted, it would allow the WHO, with the recommendation of the emergency committee (of which ~~at least one member must be from the state in question~~), to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) without the agreement of the member state in question where the outbreak is occurring.
- If the emergency committee does not come to their conclusion to declare a PHEIC unanimously, ~~nonconsenting members of the committee are required to create their own report~~ which will be included within the final report, providing for inclusion of all opinions of the health incident in question.
- This does not mean that the WHO will be able to implement any actions within a nonconsenting state. Rather, that the WHO can declare a PHIEC and share information with other states without the approval of the state in which the incident is happening.
- The amendment increases the transparency of the WHO and is an important step to rectifying the disastrous mistakes made during the early days of COVID-19.

A [report](#) produced by HFAC republican staff on the origins of COVID-19 include policy recommendations on how to strengthen the International Health Regulations in order to ensure increased accountability, transparency, and effective information sharing ensure the devastating mistakes of the COVID-19 are not repeated.

Sincerely,

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress