

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1313

May 24, 2022

Thank you for contacting me regarding proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) of the World Health Organization (WHO). I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

By way of background, these 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 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.

These amendments would not, in any way, change or supersede U.S. law and the sovereign right for the United States to legislate, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, and to implement legislation in pursuance of their health regulations. 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. This does not mean that the WHO will be able to implement any actions within a non-consenting state. Rather, that the WHO can declare a PHEIC and share information with other states without the approval of the state in which the incident is happening. The amendments increase transparency and multinational engagement of WHO member states and are an important step in rectifying the disastrous mistakes made during the early days of COVID-19.

I will continue to closely monitor this situation as the WHO considers these amendments and will advocate for continued information sharing that does not infringe on our rights as a sovereign nation.

You might be interested to know that H.R. 419, the No Taxpayer Funding for the World Health Organization Act, was introduced by Representative Chip Roy (R-TX) on January 21, 2021. This legislation would prohibit any monetary contributions from the United States to the WHO. H.R. 419 has been referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee for further consideration.

To stay up to date on legislation being considered on the House floor, please visit the Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy's website to find the [weekly schedule](#). The schedule is updated at the beginning of each week the House of Representatives is in session in Washington, D.C. Additionally, you may watch the House floor proceedings on the livestream, [here](#).

I appreciate you taking the time to inform me of your opinions and hope you will continue to contact me in the future. In closing, please know I consider it a privilege to serve and represent you and your family in Congress.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress