

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am concerned that your administration's proposals for the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Health Assembly, including amendments to the International Health Regulations to empower the WHO leadership, without changes to Chinese Communist Party's influence over WHO, will exacerbate the problem of Chinese influence in that organization and undermine our country's ability to appropriately respond to future pandemics. The WHO needs to be reformed to eliminate Chinese influence, not empowered. If the WHO will not reform to eliminate undo Chinese influence, the United States (U.S.) should withdraw from the WHO until such reforms are forthcoming.

In April 2020, I pressed the Director-General of WHO for answers on its initial response to the coronavirus pandemic, questioning its reliance on manipulated Chinese health data, and abetting China.¹ I have supported sanctions on the Chinese Communist Party, which refuses to allow a credible and comprehensive international investigation into the origins of the coronavirus.² I will never stop working to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable.

Recently, I have heard concerns about the WHO's proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations, which appear aimed at bolstering the WHO leadership vis-a-vis national governments. While I have concerns about the ability of the Chinese Communist Party to effectively prevent the WHO from discovering and sharing with the world the facts about the coronavirus in the early days of the pandemic, the fundamental problem was the hold the Chinese government had on the leadership and bureaucracy of the WHO. Any attempt to bolster the power of the WHO leadership, without reforming the leadership to minimize Chinese influence, would be counterproductive, the say the least.

I should also point out that I have consistently worked to protect the sovereignty of the U.S. from being infringed by international organizations, including the United Nations, of which the WHO is a part. Our Constitution is the supreme law of our land, and no president can legally

¹ Office of Senator Charles E. Grassley, "Grassley Questions World Health Organization Response To Coronavirus Pandemic And Its Political Independence From China," April 10, 2020, <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-questions-world-health-organization-response-coronavirus-pandemic-and>.

² Office of Senator Charles E. Grassley, "Grassley, Colleagues Introduce Bill To Sanction Beijing For Obstructing Investigations Into Origins Of COVID-19," January 11, 2022, <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-colleagues-introduce-bill-to-sanction-beijing-for-obstructing-investigations-into-origins-of-covid-19>.

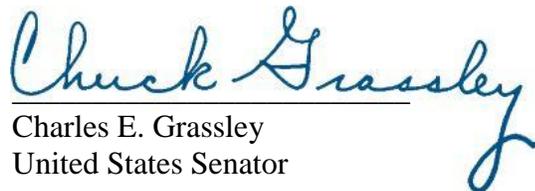
cede sovereignty or authority to a foreign entity. Under our Constitution, even the federal government has limited authority and cannot enforce lockdowns and mask mandates outside of limited federally regulated areas. In fact, your administration has attempted to overstep these bounds in several instances. Fortunately, court decisions and congressional action have pushed back.

The U.S. has been the WHO's largest contributor since its creation in 1948, contributing more than \$400 million to the WHO in 2019 alone.³ As a U.S. Senator, I have an obligation to do my best to protect the health and well-being of U.S. citizens and to ensure proper oversight of U.S. monies contributed to international organizations. I have previously urged the WHO to work with the U.S. Government to ensure rapid and reliable information sharing from all possible sources and to conduct research independent from the Chinese Communist Party's influence. However, I have not seen satisfactory changes from the WHO.

The only way to force change on such an organization is to use our leverage as the largest contributor to demand change. President Trump attempted to do so by initiating proceedings to withdraw from the WHO. Your decision to halt U.S. withdrawal without preconditions gave up the leverage needed to force real reforms. Now, your proposal to expand the WHO's responsibilities to respond to future public health threats without reforms is deeply concerning.

Given the lack of reform at the WHO, your administration's support to expand the WHO's responsibilities, and continued Chinese Communist Party influence over the WHO, I request the U.S. again initiate the process to withdraw from the WHO.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

³ Office of the Spokesperson, "The U.S. Role in International Organizations' Response to COVID-19," Department of State," March 31, 2020, <https://www.state.gov/the-u-s-role-in-international-organizations-response-to-covid-19/>.