

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY REPRESENTATIVES EDMONSTON, AMEDEE, BUTLER, ECHOLS, FIRMENT, FRIEMAN, GADBERRY, HODGES, HORTON, MCCORMICK, CHARLES OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, SEABAUGH, AND TARVER

A RESOLUTION

To express the concern of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana with respect to any potential agreement with the World Health Organization relating to global pandemic response for the United States.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization, referred to hereafter in this Resolution as the "WHO", was founded in 1948 and is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a broad mandate to act as a coordinating authority on international health issues; and

WHEREAS, the WHO is currently helping to coordinate a worldwide response to COVID-19, a respiratory disease that the WHO declared to be Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and a global pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the United States has recently been the largest funding source for the WHO, providing from four hundred million to five hundred million dollars to the organization each year along with the Gates Foundation, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the European Commission; and

WHEREAS, the United States' efforts to reform WHO procedures for preparing for and responding to future pandemics; and

WHEREAS, the United States has proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) which will be voted on by the World Health Assembly scheduled for May 22 through 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the IHR are legally binding and supersede the United States Constitution and will cede additional sovereignty, control, and legal authority over to the WHO; and

WHEREAS, these amendments will not require a two-thirds vote of the United States Senate; rather, they will require a simple majority of the World Health Assembly's one hundred ninety four member countries; and

WHEREAS, these amendments would come into force as international law in November of 2022, just six months after their approval; and

WHEREAS, these amendments give the director general of the WHO the power to unilaterally declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern even over the objection of a country dealing with an outbreak of disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its belief that any agreement with the World Health Organization relating to global pandemic response for the United States should require approval by the Legislature of Louisiana or by a majority vote of the citizens of this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such agreement should prohibit any threat to the constitutional sovereignty of this state and the inalienable rights of this state's citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such agreement should prohibit interference with an individual's right to make all medical and health-related decisions for themselves, their minor child, or any individual for whom they hold legal medical power of attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such agreement should prohibit bio-surveillance and the collection of medical or health-related data without full disclosure and consent of the individual.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such agreement should prohibit the enforcement of treatment protocols, recommendations, and guidelines, allowing healthcare providers the freedom to treat their patients without reprisal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and to each member of the Louisiana Senate.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES