

# United States Senate

August 6, 2024

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen,

[I/We] write to you regarding your announcement on July 24th, 2024, committing the United States to providing up to \$667 million to support the Pandemic Fund through the fiscal year 2026.<sup>1</sup> This proposal is a blatant waste of taxpayer dollars and a slap in the face to the hardworking citizens of [Missouri/the United States].

The Pandemic Fund, a financial intermediary fund housed at the World Bank, was created in September 2022 to provide pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) capacity to low- and medium-income countries.<sup>2</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank devised the fund, calling for a mammoth \$52.5 billion over five years, to for containing future pandemics in the name of “ the collective responsibility of the international community”.<sup>3</sup>

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we witnessed wide-scale government overreach never seen before, infringing on virtually every constitutional right of U.S. citizen. Our children lost their chance at a quality education through forced lockdowns and school closures. The Biden Administration attempted to enforce an unconstitutional vaccine mandate, forcing thousands out of work, including the brave men and women of our military. These brutal measures were encouraged and developed by international entities like the WHO, which has refused to hold the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) accountable for its responsibility in the origins of the COVID-19 virus.<sup>4</sup> Now you are coming to citizens asking them for billions more to fund an even larger international scale operation of suppression and control for the next hypothetical pandemic.

Last week’s “commitment” was yet another brazen attempt to fund unaccountable entities from the American taxpayer’s wallet. To date, the United States has already provided over \$450 million towards the \$1.2 billion in contributions the Pandemic Fund has received.<sup>5</sup> The highest donation counts by any

---

<sup>1</sup> Press Release, United States Announces Up to \$667 Million Planned Contribution to the Pandemic Fund to Support Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (July 24, 2024) <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2481>.

<sup>2</sup> Josh Michaud and Jennifer Kates, *The New Pandemic Fund: Overview and Key Issues for the U.S.*, KFF (May 30, 2023) <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/the-new-pandemic-fund-overview-and-key-issues-for-the-u-s/#:~:text=On%20March%203%2C%202023%20the,resources%2Fpublic%20health%20workforce%20capacity>.

<sup>3</sup> Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, Governance Framework, The Pandemic Fund, 2 (September 8, 2022) <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/eac1acfe37285a29942e9bb513a4fb43-0200022022/related/PPR-FIF-GOVERNANCE-FRAMEWORK-Sept-8-2022-FINAL.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Barnini Chakraborty, *World Health Organization continues to lavish China with praise for handling of coronavirus crisis*, Fox News (May 26, 2024), <https://www.foxnews.com/world/world-health-organization-continues-to-lavish-china-with-praise-for-handling-of-coronavirus-crisis>.

<sup>5</sup> Financial Intermediary Funds (FIFs): The Pandemic Fund, The World Bank Group, <https://fiftrustee.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/dfi/fiftrustee/fund-detail/pppr#1> (last visited Jul 29, 2024).

single-nation. [Americans/Missourians] are tired of watching valuable taxpayer funds that could be good use here in America, being offshored to institutions that do not have Americans' interests in mind.

Even after well-documented influence from the CCP<sup>6</sup>, the WHO continues to serve as a technical lead to the fund and chairs the Technical Advisory Panel, providing guidance to the governing board. The WHO additionally serves as one of, if not the only, implementing agency for fifteen of the nineteen projects being championed by the Fund.<sup>7</sup> Even more egregious and troubling is the inclusion of members of the CCP on the Pandemic Fund's governing body, especially given the Biden Administration's own Director of National Intelligence release of a report acknowledging the possibility of a laboratory-associated incident in Wuhan, China as a source of the virus.<sup>8</sup> The report emphasized that "China's cooperation most likely would be needed to reach a conclusive assessment of the origins of COVID-19,"<sup>9</sup> which they have refused and the WHO has been complicit in allowing the CCP to be absolved from its actions.

Despite the CCP's deliberate cover-up during the early stages of the pandemic, its actions have gone largely unaddressed, which is why their position on a board to prevent pandemics is appalling. America should not be a part of a board where representatives like Zhijun Cheng and LI Hongxia, high-ranking officials in China's Ministry of Finance, have voting power. This situation not only highlights the flawed and unaccountable nature of this program but also shines an even brighter light on taxpayer funds being used to prop up the efforts of the Fund<sup>10</sup>

As you opine in your press release, this "commitment" is "subject to Congressional appropriations and the availability of funds."<sup>11</sup> Indeed, it is, and in no world is this commitment a responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

[I/we] send this letter to tell you that [I/we] will do everything in [my/our] power as U.S. Senators to block taxpayer dollars going towards this wildly unamerican and egregious request. [I/We] implore you to revoke this wasteful spending and focus on lowering inflation, tackling our \$34 trillion debt, and putting America first.

---

<sup>6</sup> Michael Collins, *The WHO and China: Dereliction of Duty*, Council on Foreign Relations (February 27, 2020) <https://www.cfr.org/blog/who-and-china-dereliction-duty>.

<sup>7</sup> The Pandemic fund, World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/funding/pandemic-fund> (last visited Jul 29, 2024).

<sup>8</sup> Office of the Dir. of Nat'l Intelligence, Unclassified Summary of Assessment on COVID-19 Origins

(2021), <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/Unclassified-Summary-of-Assessment-on-COVID-19-Origins.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Id.

<sup>10</sup> World Bank, The Pandemic Fund: Governing Board (Mar. 2023), <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/5a0aa2579f4e93c75cd913c7729e747b-0200022022/related/The-Pandemic-Fund-Governing-Board-Final-March-2023.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> Press Release, United States Announces Up to \$667 Million Planned Contribution to the Pandemic Fund to Support Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (July 24, 2024) <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2481>.

ERIC SCHMITT  
MISSOURI

SUITE SR-387  
RUSSELL BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5721

# United States Senate

COMMITTEES  
ARMED SERVICES  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY  
JOINT ECONOMIC

Sincerely,



Eric S. Schmitt  
United States Senator