

# The who can't tell the states what to do

---

[SHF standforhealthfreedom.com/actions/the-who-cant-tell-the-states-what-to-do/](https://standforhealthfreedom.com/actions/the-who-cant-tell-the-states-what-to-do/)

Published: Sep 21, 2023

## Our Stand: At-A-Glance

---

- The World Health Organization uses the International Health Regulations (IHR) as a guide for what they can and can't do around the globe in the name of public health. The document details responsibilities countries have to the WHO when there is a public health emergency.
- In 2022, the U.S. and other countries proposed an amendment to speed up the process of making future changes to the document, which was adopted but hasn't yet gone into force.
- The amendment will be considered accepted by the U.S. on November 28, 2023.
- The timeline amendment is the first of many more, expected to be voted on in 2024.
- In 2005, the last time the IHR was amended, the U.S. put a reservation on record protecting states' rights in public health.
- The reservation was as simple as delivering a letter to the WHO.
- This is a very simple step our White House can take to show Americans that our Constitution is the supreme law of our land, and no international agreement will threaten it.
- We are collecting signatures now to be prepared for the fast pace of changes in global health in 2024 that have been building for three years now.
- We will be prepared to use the petition in three ways:
  - To send to the White House to show that Americans are watching and willing to join together to stop any threat to our Constitution.
  - To support members of Congress who will uphold their oath of office by checking the president in overreach or unconstitutional agreements;
  - To deliver to the Office of Global Affairs in the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS), informing those who are directly negotiating the treaty and IHR that this is a simple step they can take to protect Americans; we expect them to follow the precedent set by the previous administration in updating and asserting the reservation for federalism.

Petition:

In these unprecedented times of global public health and increasing digitization of personal data, Americans expect our White House to affirm our Constitutional rights in any agreements or amendments to international agreements.

We support the existing 2005 reservation for states' rights in public health, put on record in the agreement to participate in the International Health Regulations at the World Health Organization.

American citizens want the simple step to reaffirm our commitment to the U.S. Constitution in the face of rapidly expanding global public health commitments our country is making.

As you know, the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (IHR) are being amended. This is based on U.S.-led proposals adopted at the 2022 World Health Assembly, and has continued to include consideration of over 300 amendments in 2024.

Americans are calling to reassert the same reservation to the IHR to protect federalism as the White House put on record in 2005. In short, take this opportunity to protect federalism and our Constitution in any agreement made with the WHO and the United Nations. This easy step will show Americans this White House is committed to protecting our Constitution.

Here is the relevant text from the 2005 reservation that Americans expect the White House to reaffirm and reassert while adopting these and future amendments to the IHR:

***“The Government of the United States of America reserves the right to assume obligations under these Regulations in a manner consistent with its fundamental principles of federalism. With respect to obligations concerning the development, strengthening, and maintenance of the core capacity requirements set forth in Annex 1, these Regulations shall be implemented by the Federal Government or the state governments, as appropriate and in accordance with our Constitution, to the extent that the implementation of these obligations comes under the legal jurisdiction of the Federal Government. To the extent that such obligations come under the legal jurisdiction of the state governments, the Federal Government shall bring such obligations with a favorable recommendation to the notice of the appropriate state authorities.” (IHR 2005, Appendix 2)***

We expect the White House to stand by these words, to reaffirm them, and to reassert the reservation to be in line with any changes that happen to the IHR.

## Have A Question?

---

[View Our FAQs](#)

The World Health Organization is planning a lot of changes for 2024. Many people are focused on the pandemic treaty, but alongside that drafting process are changes to an already existing document: the International Health Regulations (IHR). And that document isn't getting the attention it should.

The treaty doesn't exist yet, and a lot of eyes are on the process. We have a Senate bill that would reassert the constitutional check and balance of Senate "advice and consent" before the U.S. can join a treaty. But the IHR is already in force and has already been amended without congressional input. With law, especially international law, we look to traditions and practices and those habits carry weight. The expectation is that it can and will happen again the same way.

The amendments proposed by the U.S. to the IHR in 2022 led the charge with around 40 other countries on board. (A summary of those amendments can be found [here](#).) The proposals faced a lot of pushback around the globe because the proposed changes would immensely expand the reach and power of the WHO and, in particular, the unilateral authority of the unelected director general. Most of the amendments were tabled for future discussion, but one did go through in 2022 and will soon be in force. That amendment dramatically shortened the timeline for further amending the document and how quickly countries will be expected to comply.



The 2022 World Health Assembly agreed to shorten the timeline for changing the IHR from a two-year process to a **one-year process**:

1. The timeline to reject or make reservation to IHR amendments will shorten from 18 (eighteen) to **10 (ten) months**.

2. Adopted amendments will **go into force in 12 (twelve) months**, shortened from 24 (twenty-four) months.

**Current timeline: Adoption → 18 months deadline for rejection/reservation → 24 months in force. (2 years)**

**New timeline: Adoption → 10 months deadline for rejection/reservation → 12 months in force. (1 year)**

**STAND FOR**  
HEALTH FREEDOM

Countries have until November 28, 2023, to reject the amendment or to make a formal statement for the record about conditional acceptance – that’s called a reservation.

In 2005, the last time the IHR was amended, the U.S. made a reservation.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Mission, by means of this note, informs the Acting Director-General of the World Health Organization that the Government of the United States of America accepts the IHRs, subject to the reservation and understandings referred to below.

The Mission, by means of this note, and in accordance with Article 22 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization and Article 59(1) of the IHRs, submits the following reservation on behalf of the Government of the United States of America:

The Government of the United States of America reserves the right to assume obligations under these Regulations in a manner consistent with its fundamental principles of federalism. With respect to obligations concerning the development, strengthening, and maintenance of the core capacity requirements set forth in Annex 1, these Regulations shall be implemented by the Federal Government

---

<sup>1</sup> At 5 February 2008.

<sup>2</sup> This Appendix reproduces the relevant parts of the communications submitted by States, which have been edited by the Secretariat of WHO, or translations thereof. Copies of the original communications are available at <http://www.who.int/ihr>.

or the state governments, as appropriate and in accordance with our Constitution, to the extent that the implementation of these obligations comes under the legal jurisdiction of the Federal Government. To the extent that such obligations come under the legal jurisdiction of the state governments, the Federal Government shall bring such obligations with a favorable recommendation to the notice of the appropriate state authorities.

The U.S. made a reservation in 2005 to protect states' rights and our Constitution. President George W. Bush put on record at the World Health Organization meeting that we would cooperate with the agreement *only to the extent it did not interfere with our Constitution* and, in particular, states' dominion over public health and welfare of individuals.

The U.S. can, and should, recommit to that same reservation to protect our Constitution.

Many worry, and with good reason, that any agreements with the WHO at this point will be an attack on American sovereignty. In other words, we don't want an unelected, distant, individual, or global body dictating health policy on our land. We are willing to cooperate, up to the point where our Constitution and the rights it protects are threatened.

This leviathan of global health can feel really heavy on the heart and mind. The globalist approach is fast, furious, and multi-headed. There's more to this battle, for sure, but this is one strategic way we can strike back at one of the heads of this monster. The more people who participate the better. We must show them we are watching, holding leaders accountable to our Constitution, and willing to use our voices in solidarity against an attack on our rights.

A handful of psychotic despots are trying to make a global power grab, but there are billions of us standing in their way. Their play is to exhaust, confuse, and suppress our hearts and minds so we stop taking a stand. Further, they know **the Constitution is their kryptonite**.

The U.S. set the precedent for reaffirming our Constitution in the face of international public health agreements with the 2005 reservation. With this petition, we are putting the White House on notice that Americans are watching, and will hold them accountable for reasserting our Constitutional rights by ensuring that 2005 reservation remains in force, and gets updated along with any changes to the IHR that affect its language or meaning.

We will be prepared to use the petition in three ways:

- To send to the White House to show that Americans are watching and willing to join together to stop any threat to our Constitution.
- To support members of Congress who will uphold their oath of office by checking the president in overreach or unconstitutional agreements;
- To deliver to the Office of Global Affairs at U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS), informing those who are directly negotiating the treaty and IHR, that this is a simple step they can take to protect Americans;, and we expect them to follow the precedent set by the previous administration, in updating and asserting the reservation for federalism.

## Ellen Chappelle

---

Writer/Editor

Ellen Chappelle serves as SHF's resident wordsmith. A seasoned writer and editor, she's enthusiastic about ensuring that our content is clear, concise, and inspiring.

Ellen is most energized by working on projects that transform lives. A truth seeker as well as a journalist, she's disturbed by the lack of accuracy in today's media and determined to help share fact rather than fiction. And having found greater healing with alternative approaches, she's also passionate about preserving our freedom to make informed health choices.

Past projects include serving as regional editor of a dog magazine, color and trend specialist for a small cosmetics company, arts columnist, newspaper reporter, ghostwriter, and creator of website content for artists and small businesses.

With a degree in journalism and theatre, Ellen is also a performer. She enjoyed singing and dancing on a cruise ship and traveling with a national musical theatre tour, as well as recording industrial videos, television commercials, and radio voiceovers. She also creates handcrafted jewelry in wire, chain maille, and fused glass.

“Despite what some would have us believe, the fact remains that this nation was founded on biblical principles by people who wanted freedom to worship God and live their lives without government involvement. It’s never been more critical to fight for those rights.”

## **Chrissy Scott**

---

Executive Assistant and Social Media Manager

A labor and delivery nurse with a lifelong passion for maternal and fetal health, Chrissy Scott left her job of 19 years after learning the truth about the harms caused by the medical system. In 2009, she was mandated by her employer to receive the H1N1 vaccine during her first trimester of pregnancy with her second child. She was assured that the vaccine was “safe and effective” for pregnant women, but her son was born with a kidney defect that could have been fatal. She didn’t connect the dots to vaccine injury until several years later when the declining health of her oldest son drove her to seek answers outside of allopathic medicine.

This personal journey ignited in her a new passion for truth and transparency in health care. As SHF’s Executive Assistant, Chrissy facilitates communication and local advocacy initiatives alongside Leah Wilson for their home state of Indiana. She also manages and creates graphics for SHF’s social media accounts and the website’s swag shop.

Chrissy earned her nursing degree from Anderson University and served her entire career at her local hospital. While she’s no longer a floor nurse, her five very active boys frequently test her nursing skills! She homeschools her children and has been co-owner of a successful home décor sign business with her sister.

“Parents, being the experts on their own children, are best suited to make decisions for the well-being of their family. To do this properly, they must be given full and accurate information and be free from force or coercion.”

## Sayer Ji

---

Director and Co-founder

Sayer Ji is a widely recognized researcher, author, lecturer, activist, and educator on natural health modalities. Among his many roles, he is an advisor to Stand for Health Freedom, a reviewer and editor of the International Journal of Human Nutrition and Functional Medicine, an advisory board member of the National Health Federation, a steering committee member of the Global GMO Free Coalition, and the co-founder and CEO of Systome Biomed Inc., a revolutionary scientific validation framework.

Most notably, Sayer is the founder of Greenmedinfo.com, the world's most widely referenced, evidence-based natural health resource of its kind. He founded the platform in 2008 to provide an open access, evidence-based resource supporting natural and integrative modalities. Today, Greenmedinfo.com has more than a million visits per month, serving as a trusted resource on myriad health and wellness topics to physicians, healthcare practitioners, clinicians, researchers and consumers worldwide.

Sayer attended Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, where he studied under the notable American philosopher Dr. Bruce W. Wilshire. He received a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy in 1995, with a focus on the philosophy of science. His new book, Regenerate: Unlocking Your Body's Radical Resilience through the New Biology, was released in March 2020 and is an Amazon bestseller.

“I truly believe that education will be our greatest shield against accelerating the erosion of civil liberties, including the right to bodily sovereignty, as well as the greatest catalyst for positive change on this planet moving forward.”

## LEAH WILSON

---

Executive Director and Co-founder

An attorney with a background in complex litigation and advocacy, Leah Wilson is passionate about children's health and has researched and worked on child welfare issues for more than a decade.

The overmedication of children in foster care as a form of behavior management is what compelled Leah to become an advocate and foster parent. During her time as a court-appointed special advocate for abused and neglected children, Leah witnessed the rampant use of psychiatric drugs among foster kids. She also discovered that, in addition to many extensive requirements, the state had a policy that all foster children and foster families be fully vaccinated, without exception. Through her involvement in law, health and the foster care system, it became abundantly clear to Leah that the single most important issue



affecting child welfare in the United States is the practice of one-size-fits-all medicine via medical mandates. This motivated Leah to expand her advocacy beyond foster care to all children nationwide and to start Stand for Health Freedom (SHF) in 2019.

A graduate of the Saint Louis University School of Law, Leah holds dual bachelor degrees in political science and Spanish from Indiana University. In addition to her advocacy work with SHF, Leah is the owner and former operations director of MaxLiving Indy, one of the largest natural health centers in the Midwest. She is also an educator on holistic health as well as a sought-after speaker on issues ranging from religious rights to greening your home.

“Parental rights and religious freedom are God-given natural rights that cannot arbitrarily be taken away by government authorities. Parents are the single most important factor in a child’s success; I stand in full support of this sacred relationship.”

## Sheila Ealey

---

Political Analyst

Dr. Sheila Lewis Ealey is the founder and former director of the Creative Learning Center of Louisiana, a therapeutic day school for children who are on the autism spectrum or struggling with other nonverbal intellectual disabilities. The wife of a former U.S. Coast Guard Officer, she is also the mother of four children. Her son was diagnosed with severe autism spectrum disorder at 18 months. He is now a young man and considered moderate and emerging.

Sheila and her twins were featured in the documentary “Vaxxed.” She has traveled extensively, advocating for medical freedom. She continues to educate disenfranchised parents about their fundamental rights to religious and philosophical exemptions, their ability to live sustainably on a limited budget, and the importance of nutrition and biomedical interventions for optimum health with autism. She also writes individual homeschool curriculums for parents of children with autism or intellectual disorders. Sheila is a trustee for the Autism Trust, USA, and on the board of directors of Children’s Health Defense.

Over the past 20 years, she has educated herself to use natural healing modalities for the body and brain. Her formal education includes degrees in communication, special education curriculum, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership in Special Education. Sheila serves as an assistant content advisor and political analyst for SHF.

“It is not the Constitution’s job to protect our liberties, as it is not a philosophical document but a legal one. Its purpose is to limit the powers and authority of our federal government in hopes of preventing an intrusion upon our unalienable rights. We are obliged to maintain our government within its limits.”

## Mary Katherine LaCroix

---

### DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATION

Mary Katherine LaCroix became involved with SHF as a volunteer in 2019 when the religious exemption for childhood vaccines was at risk in her home state of New Jersey. She believes strongly that parents have the responsibility for their children's health, education, and faith formation and that only they have the right to make medical decisions and manage their care.

She has worked in fundraising for more than 25 years at various educational, cultural, human services, and political organizations. A graduate of the University of Scranton, she holds a degree in History and English Literature.

Mary Katherine is thrilled to have this opportunity to work with and help grow SHF, believing that together we can achieve even greater impact in protecting our rights and caring for our loved ones. She enjoys spending time with her husband, two children and large extended family, as well as volunteering to support the special needs community.

“Parents are taught that they must trust the experts. That’s what we did, until we learned that the experts can be wrong and don’t always know what is best for your child. Parents should instead feel empowered by their natural, God-given ability to advocate and care for their children. SHF is here to give them the tools to do just that.”

## Valerie Borek

---

### POLICY ANALYST

Valerie Borek is a passionate advocate for health rights and family privacy. A mother of two with degrees in law and biochemistry, she is perfectly positioned to lead SHF advocates through complex health-rights policy. Her work is guided by a love for American values, uncovering truth, and a passion for empowering others. Valerie has served as SHF's policy analyst since 2021.

Valerie's understanding of the value of freedom to make one's own health care choices is not just academic. Health freedom has kept her boys alive and thriving. Her choice to have home births jump-started her advocacy for health privacy. Her eldest son survived a rare and deadly cancer because her family was able to navigate medical care while holding onto values that were sometimes at odds with recommendations.

Before joining SHF, Valerie specialized in health and parenting rights at her boutique law firm, especially surrounding birth and vaccine rights. She advocated for informed consent in health care and transparent food labeling in her state. She helped found the Birth Rights Bar

Association and was honored to present their argument to the Delaware Supreme Court that midwifery is not the practice of medicine, in support of a trailblazing midwife.

“Health is the foundation of how we show up in this world to love, serve, and create. Americans are blessed to live in a country that gets stronger the more we protect fundamental rights, like informed consent and privacy, so individuals and families can thrive.”

## Bailey Kuykendoll

---

Associate Director

Designer and visual marketer Bailey Kuykendoll began advocating for health and religious freedom and parental rights in 2014 after learning she was pregnant. A self-described skeptic, she’s not afraid to ask questions and do copious amounts of research to reach her own conclusions.

She’s also not afraid of hard work. As SHF’s Relationship Manager, Bailey truly keeps the organizational boat afloat. Working closely with health freedom advocates in each state, she ensures that SHF has campaigns for health-freedom-related bills and petitions on our website and across social media, spreading the word to encourage people to contact their legislators. She builds campaigns, graphics, website pages, and relationships.

Bailey earned a design degree from Harrington Institute of Design in 2008. She then served as a production assistant on several shows for HGTV, followed by working behind the scenes on the X Factor, small indie films, music videos, and documentaries. Bailey joined Health Freedom Florida after moving to the East Coast, becoming co-president of the grassroots organization in 2019. While at Health Freedom Florida, she successfully filed a state bill designed to stop discrimination based on your health status. She joined SHF in the fall of 2020.

“God placed a calling on my heart back in 2008 to be a part of something bigger for Him. Twelve years later, the opportunity came knocking to help others lean into their natural-born rights and take a stand for themselves and their families. I knew this is where I was called to be, and I have never looked back.”