



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906
February 14, 2023

Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20201

Director Walensky,

As you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently codified new International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes related to COVID-19 vaccination status. The new codes are scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2023, and will provide the CDC with personal information the agency has no business gathering on American citizens.

Indeed, the soon-to-be-implemented codes go far beyond whether or not an American citizen is vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or unvaccinated for COVID-19. The new codes attempt to detail the reasons why an American citizen decided not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The reasons listed include: immunization not carried out because of contraindication (Z28.0-), immunization not carried out because of patient decision for reasons of belief or group pressure (Z28.1), immunization not carried out because of patient decision for other and unspecified reason (Z28.2-), or immunization not carried out for other reason (Z28.8-).¹ Naturally, we are concerned about the federal government gathering data on Americans' personal choices – data that serves no sincere purpose in treating patients' medical conditions – and how it may be used in the future.

The ICD system was originally intended to classify diagnoses and reasons for visiting the doctor, not to conduct surveillance on the personal medical decisions of American citizens. Given the profound uncertainty and distrust felt by many Americans toward the CDC and the medical apparatus at large, it is important for the CDC to make clear the intent and purpose of these new codes.

We request answers to the following questions by February 20, 2023. Please provide a separate response to each question below, rather than a narrative response.

1. Why did the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) decide to start gathering data on why Americans chose not to take the COVID-19 vaccine?
2. How do CDC and NCHS intend to use these new COVID-19 vaccination ICD codes?
3. What steps are the CDC and NCHS taking to ensure that Americans' private health information contained in the ICD system is protected?

¹ Revenue Integrity Insider, "CDC updates guidelines for COVID-19 underimmunization codes" www.nahri.org, 26 January 2022, <https://nahri.org/articles/cdc-updates-guidelines-covid-19-underimmunization-codes>, 6 February 2023.

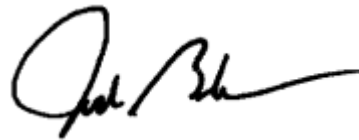
4. Will the CDC and NCHS confirm that they have not, will not, and cannot create a database of Americans based on their COVID-19 vaccination status?
5. Can the CDC and NCHS confirm that private companies do not have access to lists of Americans' COVID-19 vaccination status through the ICD system, or any other database overseen by the CDC and NCHS?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Josh Brecheen
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Mary Miller
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Keith Self
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Lauren Boebert
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