

December 4, 2024



SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
— CHAIRMAN BRAD WENSTRUP —

**AFTER ACTION REVIEW OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
The Lessons Learned and a Path Forward**



Final Report of the

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

U.S. House of Representatives

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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Dear Colleague:

It has been my distinct pleasure to lead the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic for the 118th Congress. I was honored to be entrusted with a great responsibility: to investigate a once in 100-year pandemic and to prepare America for next time—and there will be a next time. This is a responsibility I took very seriously, and I believe that seriousness and teamwork has translated to much success.

Five years ago, on December 1, 2019, was what would eventually be the first confirmed case of COVID-19. After that, a pandemic devastated the world at nearly never before seen proportions, leaving millions dead and millions more concerned about long-term consequences.

COVID-19 was novel. The brightest scientists and medical experts were learning on the job to determine how to treat both the underlying disease and the second order side effects.

Since February 2023, the Select Subcommittee sought to produce a full after-action report to provide a road map of how we, in Congress, the Executive, and the private sector may better prepare for and respond to future pandemics. Throughout this process, the Select Subcommittee sent more than 100 investigative letters, conducted 38 transcribed interviews or depositions, held 25 hearings or meetings, and reviewed more than one million pages of documents from dozens of custodians. This work looks back on many events, comments, guidances, and other actions, to look forward. This is the single most thorough review of the pandemic conducted to date.

Most of you know me. You know I strive to work collegially, with our fellow Americans, to provide results for all of us. That is the same mentality I brought to my work as Chairman of the Select Subcommittee. During a time of intense partisanship, the Select Subcommittee had bipartisan consensus across multiple topics.

- 1) The possibility that COVID-19 emerged because of a laboratory or research related accident is not a conspiracy theory.
- 2) EcoHealth Alliance, Inc. and Dr. Peter Daszak should never again receive U.S. taxpayer dollars.
- 3) Scientific messaging must be clear and concise, backed by evidentiary support, and come from trusted messengers, such as front-line doctors treating patients.
- 4) Public health officials must work to regain American's trust; Americans want to be educated, not indoctrinated.

- 5) Former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo participated in medical malpractice and publicly covered up the total number of nursing home fatalities in New York.

In addition to these notable bipartisan successes, the Select Subcommittee developed extensive findings, some of which include:

- 1) The U.S. National Institutes of Health funded gain-of-function research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.
- 2) The Chinese government, agencies within the U.S. Government, and some members of the international scientific community sought to cover-up facts concerning the origins of the pandemic.
- 3) Operation Warp Speed was a tremendous success and a model to build upon in the future. The vaccines, which are now probably better characterized as therapeutics, undoubtedly saved millions of lives by diminishing likelihood of severe disease and death.
- 4) Rampant fraud, waste, and abuse plagued the COVID-19 pandemic response.
- 5) Pandemic-era school closures will have enduring impact on generations of America's children and these closures were enabled by groups meant to serve those children.
- 6) The Constitution cannot be suspended in times of crisis and restrictions on freedoms sow distrust in public health.
- 7) The prescription cannot be worse than the disease, such as strict and overly broad lockdowns that led to predictable anguish and avoidable consequences.

Chairing the Select Subcommittee for the 118th Congress has been my honor. I said from the beginning, this work is the single most impactful responsibility I have undertaken in 12 years in Congress, and it has been. This work will help the United States, and the world, **predict** the next pandemic, **prepare** for the next pandemic, **protect** ourselves from the next pandemic, and hopefully **prevent** the next pandemic. Members of the 119th Congress should continue and build off this work, there is more information to find and honest actions to be taken.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted a distrust in leadership. Trust is earned. Accountability, transparency, honesty, and integrity will regain this trust. A future pandemic requires a whole of America response managed by those without personal benefit or bias. We can always do better, and for the sake of future generations of Americans, we must. It can be done!

Sincerely,



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.

Chairman