

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS
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UPDATED

MEMORANDUM

November 16, 2021

To: Members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hybrid Hearing on “Combating Coronavirus Cons and the Monetization of Misinformation”

On **November 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. E.T.**, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis will hold a hybrid in-person/remote hearing on “Combating Coronavirus Cons and the Monetization of Misinformation.”

This hearing will convene in person in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building and remotely using Zoom, which has been approved by the House, at the discretion of the Chairman, the witnesses, and other Members.

Participants appearing in person will be required to adhere to the current [Attending Physician’s Guidelines](#), which provide for “all individuals, both vaccinated and unvaccinated alike, to wear a mask in indoor spaces to further reduce spread of Delta agent coronavirus.”

Members attending remotely are asked to connect by 1:30 p.m. to ensure their participation and troubleshoot any connectivity issues. The hearing will be recorded and livestreamed for the public.

I. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF HEARING

The hearing will examine the challenges presented by the spread of coronavirus misinformation online, including how fraudsters are using misinformation to market and sell hazardous treatments and fraudulent products. This hearing will also explore how coronavirus misinformation endangers public health and fuels vaccine hesitancy, and necessary efforts to ensure online coronavirus scams carried out by nefarious actors do not set back our nation’s progress toward ending the pandemic.

II. WITNESSES

Dr. Kolina Koltai

Postdoctoral Fellow
Center for an Informed Public
University of Washington Information School

Dr. Jay Kennedy

Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice
Assistant Director of Research, Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection
Michigan State University

Dr. Jeffrey Aeschlimann

Associate Professor, School of Pharmacy
Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Medicine
University of Connecticut (UConn)

María Teresa Kumar

President and Chief Executive Officer
Voto Latino

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya (*Minority witness*)

Professor, Department of Health Policy
Senior Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research
Stanford University