

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074
Minority (202) 225-5051

MEMORANDUM

September 11, 2023

To: Members, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

From: Select Subcommittee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Oh Doctor, Where Art Thou? Pandemic Erosion of the Doctor-Patient Relationship”

On **Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 10:00 AM ET in room 2247 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled “Oh Doctor, Where Art Thou? Pandemic Erosion of the Doctor-Patient Relationship.”

I. BACKGROUND:

The COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on the U.S. health care system and greatly reduced the quality-of-care Americans received. Because of the pandemic and the policies put in place to fight it, Americans missed millions of medical appointments. However, the severity of the damage to the health care system goes even deeper than missed appointments—all the way down to the fundamental relationship between a doctor and their patient.

Unfortunately, this essential component of health care has been eroded in recent decades. The effect of this was all too evident during the pandemic, as doctors were strong-armed into following what public health officials were pushing, regardless of whether they believed the advice or protocol to be sound. This is inherently contradictory to the very nature of the doctor-patient relationship, and it erodes physician autonomy. When politicians are telling doctors how they should treat their patients, we have failed.

II. HEARING PURPOSE:

This hearing will examine the erosion of the doctor-patient relationship and physician autonomy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

III. WITNESSES:

Jeffrey Singer, M.D.

Surgeon

Private Practice

Senior Fellow

Cato Institute, Department of Health Policy Studies

Azadeh Khatibi, M.D, M.S., M.P.H
Physician, Medical Ethics and Freedom Advocate

Jerry Williams, M.D.
Founder
Urgent Care 24/7

Additional witnesses to be announced.