

# 2024 Battles ahead

January 2024

As we have seen, health freedom is one of the fastest growing issues globally. Our team, in partnership with our state directors across the country, is committed to keeping our advocates and policymakers in the loop on the top trends – both threats and progressions – in health freedom. Here’s what we’re focusing on in 2024



## MINOR CONSENT

States are writing laws to **allow minor children to consent to medical procedures without parental consent** (and sometimes despite parents’ open objections).

### Problem:

- This is bad public policy that plants seeds of distrust between parents and their children.
- How can a minor have the ability to consent to medical procedures, but not to enter into a contract, have sexual relations, or lie in a tanning bed?
- Preventing parents from knowing and/or accessing their child’s health record can have disastrous consequences if the child experiences health problems and the parent is unsure why.
- Parents are responsible for their children physically, emotionally, and financially. Cutting parents out of medical decisions that could substantially undermine and burden those responsibilities is unethical and in bad faith.
- A myriad of privacy issues relate to minor consent laws. How can a parent advocate for privacy protections for the minor child if they’re unable to know who is accessing the data and for what purposes?

### Solution:

- Integrity of the family unit must be protected at all costs by the parent, public policymakers, and all involved in the care of children. A state’s law may allow minor consent, but that doesn’t relieve a professional of their ethical duties.
- Parents should avoid any health care provider who is willing to get between a parent and their child. A trusted provider should respect a parent’s decision and encourage open communication between a child and their parents, rather than harbor a child’s secrets from their parents.
- Parents can get plugged in with local health freedom advocacy groups to prevent minor consent bills from passing into law.



## SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS (SBHCs)

A federal agenda seeks to rapidly expand the use of School-based Health Centers – **access to your children without your knowledge or consent** – throughout America.

### Problem:

- Traditionally, schools have used school nurses to treat emergency and first aid situations (illness and injury) while the child is at school. Recently, we are seeing a rapid increase in the expansion of school-based health centers. These clinics are intended to replace pediatricians and provide primary care services within schools as a “medical home” for a child. But in Harvard’s Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation’s recent pamphlet, SBHCs are being sold as the most effective tool for **overcoming parents as a barrier to vaccination**, proving even more effective than vaccine mandates for school attendance.
- This agenda has legs because government agencies are funneling millions of grant dollars for school-based health services into states across the U.S.

### **Solution:**

- Proponents claim SBHCs are necessary because children, especially minorities, cannot access doctors' offices, creating "access" and "equity" issues.
- Be ready to talk about the real percentage of children in need, as well as how those needs can be met with existing structures. Ethics do not allow parents to drop their children off at the doctor's office and pick them up an hour later. We should not normalize the idea of doing so within a school setting, thereby lowering the standard of care for children.
- Parents must engage politically and work with state health freedom leaders to ask lawmakers to either ban SBHCs in favor of the existing limited school-nurse model, or place guardrails on SBHCs to protect parental consent and involvement in their minor children's medical care. SHF has developed a model bill for how to set up these guardrails and is working with state directors to implement it.
- If your school utilizes an SBHC, make sure you have it documented that you do not consent for your child to receive any care through the SBHC. You can also have your child sign a medical power of attorney and consent for you as a parent to access their medical record. Keep it on file and give a copy to the school nurse and SBHC administrator.



### **WHO TRANSPARENCY**

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are two of the most influential public health agencies. **Their policies and advisory guidance are often adopted instantly by state and local authorities.**

### **Problem:**

- The American public has lost trust in public health authorities, especially the CDC and the WHO after their disastrous policies during the COVID pandemic.
- The CDC's agenda is to save its credibility by ensuring that public health remains top of mind in our daily lives. By perpetuating fear, they can continue to request large sums of money, used to gain access to our data, which can then be used to coerce compliance with CDC guidance.
- The CDC works in partnership with the WHO, an unelected organization that's unaccountable to American citizens. Our president is working against our best interest to tie American tax dollars and American public policy to whatever the WHO decides.
- The U.S. is currently involved in negotiations that are intended to strengthen the power and autonomy of the WHO through an international treaty as well as updates to the current regulations, the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005). We must stop this global power grab and focus on maintaining local control.

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### **Solution:**

- Elect officials who understand that health and public welfare powers rest first in the state governments and that the federal government (and the WHO) only have as much power locally as we give them.
- In 2022, Louisiana passed a resolution which requires the approval of citizens, either through a public vote (referendum) or through legislative action, before any public health guidance from the WHO can be implemented within the state. It also prevented biosurveillance and collection of health data without informed consent.
- In the 2023 legislative session, Wyoming introduced a bill that stated that the CDC and the WHO have no jurisdiction in the state and any requirements, mandates, recommendations, instructions, or guidance provided by either organization cannot be used to justify any mask, vaccine, or testing mandates within the state. We have already seen bills in 2024 including Louisiana and Tennessee.
- In February 2023, Stand for Health Freedom reported that Florida's Collier County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to reject a \$1.2 million grant from the CDC and return the funds; they realized that by accepting the grant, they would be required to comply with unsatisfactory CDC requirements and bypass informed consent.
- Local vigilance and advocacy provide the necessary oversight and protections we need.



## AI & HEALTH CARE

Data privacy is fundamental to protecting against medical discrimination.

### Problem:

- The disclosure of our health data is a violation of data privacy which results in discrimination. We see that in schools, in the workplace, and as customers.
- Disclosure occurs through data capture commercially and through public health agency data sharing with third parties such as research institutions.
- A larger agenda exists to create universal digital IDs, where millions of data points are collected and combined to create a digital profile (an "avatar") which can be used by artificial intelligence to predict behavior and outcomes. These profiles are used to set rates, premiums, and coverage levels in the insurance and finance worlds; target advertising; and influence policy.
- Digital infrastructure is being created that will eliminate the doctor-patient relationship by replacing the practice of medicine with protocols. It is the ultimate endpoint of the "one-ill-one-pill" mentality. This means no individual care; it all becomes standardized care.
- The patient is being turned into a collection of data points collected not just at the doctor's office but also through public health agency data sharing, social media platforms (if it's free, you're the product!), cell phone apps, and more.
- Massive privacy issues will arise with the implementation of technology that connects our health data to AI.
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- The disclosure of our health data is a violation of data privacy which results in discrimination. We see that in schools, workplaces, stores, entertainment venues, and other places.

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### Solution:

- Act in ways that protect your privacy to slow the flow of sensitive information being collected.
- States can pass legislation that will prevent certain kinds of data from being collected and protect citizen data from being misused.
- The federal government is considering a bill that would provide universal protections but these protections are not nearly strong enough.

For more on our 2024 battles ahead,  
including "deep dive resource pages,"  
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