

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2022

Dr. Rochelle Walensky
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027

Dear Director Walensky:

We write to you regarding a recent report that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracked location data from millions of Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the report, the CDC spent \$420,000 to acquire the data from a controversial data broker company SafeGraph.¹ The report states the data was used to monitor Americans as they visited neighbors, schools, pharmacies, gyms, and even their place of worship.

If this report is accurate, the CDC committed a gross violation of American's civil liberties guaranteed under the 4th Amendment. Americans have the right to live their lives without fear of being watched by a government agency. It is especially crucial that Americans feel safe practicing their most sacred constitutional right, freedom of religion, without fear of persecution.

The report claims that the CDC even used this data to track Americans walking around their neighborhoods and attempted to extrapolate information to see if people were using exercise as chronic illness prevention. This monitoring is a massive overstep of the CDC's roles and responsibilities.

Additionally, the data broker firm, SafeGraph has a chronic history of being accused of selling the personal data of millions of Americans. The company has been banned from several app stores, including Google Play, for these egregious business practices.

The fact that the CDC would associate with such a company and feel comfortable violating the rights of millions of Americans is concerning and leads to many questions.

¹ Joseph Cox [CDC Tracked Millions of Phones to See If Americans Followed COVID Lockdown Orders](https://www.vice.com/en/article/m7vymn/cdc-tracked-phones-location-data-curfews) VICE (May 3, 2022) <https://www.vice.com/en/article/m7vymn/cdc-tracked-phones-location-data-curfews>

We request answers to the following questions:

1. What official(s) authorized the purchase of this data? Why was the company, SafeGraph, chosen given its controversial background?
2. Why was this data purchase authorized? Are there plans to punish Americans using this data? Were Americans notified that the CDC had collected their data?
3. Are there plans to continue to purchase location data of Americans from other companies? If so will Americans be notified that their location data is being tracked?
4. Is the CDC still retaining this data? If so where and how is the CDC storing the data? How is this personal data being safeguarded? Do Americans need to worry that their location information could be hacked or leaked?
5. Has this collected data been shared with other members of the interagency or with any private companies?

We look forward to your response and also request a detailed report explaining how this data was used and a justification for a clear violation of American's rights. Please provide this information and all documents no later than May 27, 2022.

Sincerely,



Jody Hice (GA-10)
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik (NY-21)
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen (GA-12)
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz (OR-02)
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman (MI-01)
Member of Congress



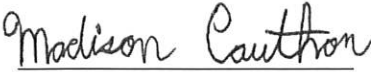
Andy Biggs (AZ-05)
Member of Congress




Dan Bishop (NC-09)
Member of Congress





Laruen Boebert (CO-03)
Member of Congress



Maddison Cawthorn (NC-11)
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud (TX-27)
Member of Congress


Warren Davidson (OH-08)
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D. (TN-04)
Member of Congress


Jeff Duncan (SC-03)
Member of Congress

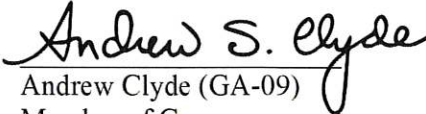

Charles "Chuck" Fleischmann (TN-03)
Member of Congress



Bob Good (VA-05)
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman (WI-06)
Member of Congress



Mike Carey (OH-15)
Member of Congress


Ben Cline (VA-06)
Member of Congress



Andrew Clyde (GA-09)
Member of Congress


Rodney Davis (IL-13)
Member of Congress


Byron Donalds (FL-19)
Member of Congress


Jake Ellzey (TX-05)
Member of Congress


Louie Gohmert (TX-01)
Member of Congress


Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. (AZ-04)
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins (LA-03)
Member of Congress



Billy Long (MO-07)
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace (SC-01)
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Thomas Massie (KY-04)
Member of Congress



Lisa McClain (MI-10)
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller (IL-15)
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman (SC-05)
Member of Congress



Scott Perry (PA-21)
Member of Congress



Bill Posey (FL-08)
Member of Congress



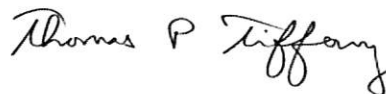
Chip Roy (TX-21)
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube (FL-17)
Member of Congress



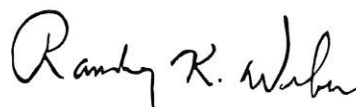
Chris Stewart (UT-02)
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany (WI-07)
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew (NJ-02)
Member of Congress



Randy Weber (TX-14)
Member of Congress