

# Eagle Forum Report

*founded by Phyllis Schlafly*

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## *Bureaucracies Are Not Smart*

### ONE HEALTH IS BAD HEALTH

by Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D., based in Athens, Greece, who is a senior reporter for The Defender and a host of “Good Morning CHD.”

The United States, Canada, and Mexico have launched a joint pandemic preparedness initiative that will unite the countries’ public health agencies around a “One Health” approach to addressing future pandemics.

This new initiative may empower the World Health Organization — the architect of the original One Health Initiative — to impose global control measures like vaccine passports and new policies targeting the “infodemic.”

“Because this is an initiative from the WHO, I am deeply concerned,” said Nicolas Hulscher, an epidemiologist and fellow at the McCullough Foundation. “They appear to be seeking domain over plants, animals, and humans — globalized, central control over public health policies in all participating countries.”

The WHO defines One Health as “an integrated, unifying approach to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the environment.”

Public Health Canada says One Health “considers the relationships between the health of humans, animals, and the environment”, suggesting that future pandemics or public health threats may cross from animals

to humans.

Hulscher suggested bird flu could become the source of the next pandemic — and the basis for imposing global control. He said, “The biopharmaceutical complex wishes for H5N1 bird flu to become a human pandemic, as it will give them another opportunity to implement draconian control measures and mandate mRNA injections. Their obsession with zoonotic diseases may be due to their potential for high mortality rates, which increases the probability of high vaccine uptake and adherence to strict countermeasures like lockdowns.”

In the October 2024 launch of the North American Preparedness for Animal and Human Pandemics Initiative, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cited the COVID-19 pandemic as the impetus for the new initiative.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that there are myriad political, legal, regulatory, policy, preparedness, and response challenges that can be best addressed through a stronger, coordinated regional approach across multiple sectors when facing large-scale events,” the HHS said in a statement.


The HHS identified several “pri-



ority issues” for the new initiative, including animal diseases with zoonotic potential, infectious diseases with pandemic potential, epidemiological surveillance, medical and public health countermeasures, border health measures, risk communications, and joint exercises and training.

The U.S. agencies involved in the initiative include the HHS, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of State.

The initiative’s One Health approach may also involve “non-government actors,” according to an HHS report.

Hulscher accused these public health agencies of being captured by Big Pharma. He said, “Pandemic preparedness is only a good thing when the agencies involved lack a nefarious agenda. Investigation into safe and effective treatments is critical in combating pandemics. Unfortunately, our public health agencies are compromised by the biopharmaceutical complex and thus seek to prioritize experimental injections over other medical countermeasures, regardless of their safety and efficacy.” 

# ALL “CLIMATE CHANGE” POLICIES HAVE FAILED

by David M. Simon, a senior fellow with Unleash Prosperity and a lawyer in Chicago. This piece originally appeared at WashingtonExaminer.com and has been republished by The Cornwall Alliance with permission.

**T**he next president and Congress should repeal every aspect of the Biden administration’s climate change legislative and regulatory program.

It is economically destructive, damages national security, and at most will have a barely detectable impact on global temperatures.

It should never have been pursued because strong scientific data show that neither global warming nor the increased emission of carbon dioxide causes harm.

The Biden administration admits Goldman Sachs has estimated that President Joe Biden’s signature climate change legislation, the misnamed Inflation Reduction Act, will cost taxpayers \$1.2 trillion by 2031.

The Biden administration’s regulations, executive orders, and other agency actions that limit oil production, refining, transport, and use have sharply raised oil and gasoline prices.

The per barrel price of West Texas Intermediate was about \$50 in December 2020, the month before Biden took office. Since May 27, 2021, it has ranged from \$66.74 to \$123.70. The average per gallon price of gasoline was \$2.28 in December 2020. Since May 2021, it has ranged from \$3.07 to \$5.03.

The oil price spike triggered by the Biden climate change program has also been enriching petrostates and fueling Russia’s war against Ukraine and Iran’s nuclear weapons development program, worldwide terrorism, and proxy wars against Israel, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.

The Biden climate change program, furthermore, at most will have a barely detectable impact on global

temperatures. Environmental statistician Bjorn Lomborg has noted concerning the Inflation Reduction Act that “if you plug the predicted emissions decline into the climate model used for all major United Nations climate reports, it turns out the global temperature will be cut by only 0.0009 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century.”

Scientific data show that rather than being an “existential threat,” global warming, including the 1.34 degrees Celsius average temperature increase since 1880, has saved and will continue to save millions of lives.

A study by 22 scientists from several nations, published in May 2015 by the *Lancet*, of more than 74 million deaths from 1985 to 2012 in the United States and around the world found that cooler temperatures kill 17 times more people than warmer temperatures. In July 2021, the *Lancet* published another study that similarly reported that cooler temperatures kill nine times more.

Some of the world’s greatest scientists have similarly noted that increased carbon dioxide emissions are beneficial rather than harmful.

In March 2023, Nobel Prize-winning physicist John Clauser emphatically stated that “increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations will benefit the world.”

William Happer of Princeton University, Richard Lindzen of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and hundreds of other scientists wrote in February 2017 that the carbon dioxide that we each exhale “is not a pollutant.”

Happer and Lindzen attest in July 2023 comments submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency that

“a major social benefit of increasing CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is the indisputable science that it increases the amount of food that plants produce through what is known as CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization. More CO<sub>2</sub> means more food.”


Global warming and increased carbon dioxide emissions also neither cause more natural disasters nor make them deadlier.

Since 1920, as temperatures and carbon dioxide emissions have increased (and the world’s population has quadrupled), average deaths per year from natural disasters have decreased by more than 90%.

A National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration report, updated on April 17, shows no increase in the “frequency of tropical storms, hurricanes, or major hurricanes, or in the proportion of hurricanes that become major hurricanes.”

The percentage of global land burned per year by fires has been declining since 1905. In 2022, “the world hit a new record-low of 2.2% burned area.”

An EPA report updated on Nov. 1, 2023, states that the “absolute sea level has risen at an average rate of 0.06 inches per year from 1880 to 2013,” including a slightly increased rate since 1993 — a tiny “0.12 to 0.14 inches per year.”

Repeal the Inflation Reduction Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission’s climate-related disclosures rule, the EPA greenhouse gas emissions mandates and regulations, the executive order barring the Keystone XL pipeline, the pre-Biden administration Renewable Fuel Standard that limits oil refining, and all the other laws, regulations, subsidies, and executive orders that seek to limit or prevent global warming or greenhouse gas emissions. 

# ARE CELL PHONES IN SCHOOLS LIKE SECOND-HAND SMOKE?

by Aaron Gifford, The Epoch Times

**M**ountain Middle School in Durango, Colorado, banned cellphones from classrooms a dozen years ago.

Principal and executive director Shane Voss recalled that at the time, the constant texting and photo-snapping were too much to tolerate.

“It was already a massive distraction before that, in 2010,” he told The Epoch Times. “All of a sudden, everyone’s got a camera in their pocket.”

Before the start of the 2012–2013 academic year, Voss asked his faculty if anyone could think of a reason to justify students having phones in the classroom. Not a single hand went up.

With that, the school instituted a policy that required phones to be turned off and placed inside backpacks until the students exited the building at the end of the school day. The principal said he can count the number of total infractions during the policy’s history on one hand.

“The kids were actually yearning for this,” Voss said, adding that students in recent years told him that they enjoy the mornings and afternoons without having to check their messages or social media updates.

“They’re talking to each other,” he said. “They learn from that personal communication and collaboration.”

More than a decade after Mountain’s ban, personal wireless devices and online applications available to children are far more advanced and engaging; distractions aren’t limited to camera flashes and text notifications. Social media sites are increasingly linked to youth addiction, anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems.

In September 2024, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law a measure requiring districts to enact their own policies for limiting or prohibiting smartphone use in schools.

Academic improvement at Mountain, a public charter school that serves grades four to eight, surged after its policy took effect. Voss said state test scores in math, English language arts, and science went from dead last in the Western Slope region of Colorado to first place during the past 12 years. This institution of around 300 students remains a top performer in the state. Voss was named the 2024 Colorado State Charter School Leader of the Year.

The Colorado Department of Education listed Mountain Middle School as meeting academic achievement and academic growth with a 75 percent score for both categories in 2016. Seven years later, its academic achievement score was 99.3 percent, and academic growth was listed as 86.8 percent.

“The ban has everything to do with that,” Voss said. “There are no distractions, the students are focused, and everyone in the classroom understands the etiquette piece.”

Voss said restrictions are more challenging to enact now because teachers fail to set an example by turning off their own phones. And there is pushback from parents who insist they should have the ability to contact or track their children at any moment. Two to three times a week, he said, he consults with school and state leaders who are pursuing similar restrictions in their own districts.

“This is a second job for me,” he said. “It’s a movement right now.”

Even though phone restrictions



can be determined at the classroom level, where teachers and school leaders often lack the will to deal with resistance, the youth mental health crisis has prompted action by state legislatures in the past nine months alone.

California, Indiana, Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, Ohio, South Carolina, and Virginia passed laws prohibiting the use of phones during instruction time or requiring individual districts to establish policies by 2025, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures’ bill-tracking webpage.

Similar cellphone restriction laws are pending in New York state, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico.

The New York State United Teachers Union wants a statewide policy restricting cellphones and personal devices for the length of the school day, according to a Sept. 27 news release.

“Students are struggling to talk to students, talk to adults, problem-solve how to navigate social situations, how to look people in the eye, and just coping with the world around them,” Nick Harris, a school psychologist at Guilderland High School, said in the news release. “Most of the time, our students are reporting to us that whatever site they’re on, whatever they’re doing, they’re just getting more depressed, more anxious, and more distracted.”

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Many school districts across the nation aren't waiting for a state mandate.

Wyoming's Riverton Middle School began restricting cellphone use in 2022. Assistant Principal Brady Slack said the number of disciplinary referrals has plummeted since then. He's unaware of any incidents in the past year related to bullying or sharing inappropriate photos or social media posts.

"It just kind of goes away," Slack told *The Epoch Times*. "And the students and parents are fine with it now."

In San Mateo, California, two of the 10 schools in the Union High School District have a bell-to-bell policy that requires students to place their phones in Yondr pouches that can only be unlocked by a magnet at building exits after the last period of instruction.

School officials did not provide evidence of academic improvements, but they did report better student behavior and engagement.

The most notable difference is that hallways and cafeterias are much louder, now that students are no longer looking down at their phones during lunch or between classes.

According to San Mateo High School Principal Yvonne Shiu, students are less self-conscious and more energetic at pep rallies and assemblies because they know other students won't be filming them if they look awkward.

Shiu said parents are informed if a student is disciplined for finding a way to access a phone during the school day, and the school is willing to keep phones over the weekend if a parent requests it.

"It prevents a home from getting ransacked if they want to get their phone back," she said. She added that during the past four years,

students have told her that their fear of "constantly missing out," which used to bind them to their phones, has faded. The kids catch up on their messages as they leave the building at the end of the day and realize that what they missed was not worth the distraction from learning.

During that same meeting, Peninsula High School Principal Ronald Campana said fights and scuffles became scarce after the ban took effect, and the few that happened "never made it to YouTube."

The nonprofit Phone-Free Schools Movement was formed last year by parents whose children were traumatized by social media episodes. It advocates bell-to-bell bans on cellphones, smartwatches, fitness trackers, and Bluetooth-connected headphones. Co-founder Sabine Polak reported that in schools across the country, there is better student behavior, fewer privacy violations, and better teacher morale and retention when the burden of policing phone use is gone.

The organization discourages policies allowing phones or personal devices during lunch periods or for certain classroom activities, let alone leaving the choice up to individual teachers.

"It's the second-hand smoke effect, not just a personal choice," Polak told *The Epoch Times*. "They affect everyone around them. They take kids away from the instruction in the classroom, and those who turn those off still have to worry about being videotaped."

### Opposition

Cellphone ban advocates recognize safety concerns as the top reason families and lawmakers oppose restrictions.

On Sept. 6, the National Parents Union released survey results and a

statement affirming its fight against school restrictions.


"Cellphone bans fail to take into consideration the tragic, real-life scenarios that unfortunately play out all too often in schools," National Parents Union President Keri Rodrigues said in the news release. "And schools have yet to improve communication with us."

"The concerns of American parents are real and deserve to also be considered in the creation of any policy that impacts our ability to communicate with our children."

In Colorado, Chris Page, principal of Highlands Ranch High School, allows and even encourages the use of cellphones during class.

Page said the school's mission is to prepare students for life after graduation, whether that's college or a full-time job that requires workers to pay close attention to their phones. He said he advocates a K-12 digital citizenship curriculum that trains children to balance the use of devices with human interaction and learning.

"It's our responsibility to teach kids to use them the right way," Page, Colorado's 2023 High School Principal of the Year, told *The Epoch Times*. "You can take the cellphones away, but the bullies will still jump on after 4 p.m."

"We don't control technology like that anymore. Disruptions have always existed. How we guide them is the art of teaching." 

## EAGLE FORUM

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