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Is Congress Doubling Down on Pandemic Power?

The 18-page “pandemic act” within the much larger National Defense Authorization Act of 2023 became law before the Republicans controlled the House. It requires the President to develop and advance a comprehensive strategy for U.S. global health security and for pandemic prevention and preparedness. There are 13 sections of requirements for the president.

Congress usually requires agencies, like the CDC, to develop and submit detailed plans, not the president. Is this mandate related to the new $500 million pandemic planning office in the White House? Does Congress think the CDC can’t do its job or is it just doubling the money spent on pandemic controls that could be used to try to shut down society and track your every move?

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