

John Joyce, M.D.
13th District of Pennsylvania



Committee on Energy & Commerce

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, you and your administration have enthusiastically encouraged Pennsylvanians to participate in contact tracing facilitated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and its vendor, Insight Global. From the start, many Pennsylvanians were wary of this collection of personal data and identifying information; however, you and your administration officials continuously urged cooperation as a civic responsibility.

Now, many of these fears have been confirmed as your administration disclosed a dangerous data breach that exposed the personal information of more than 72,000 Pennsylvanians, compromising individuals' privacy and security. According to reports, the data includes sensitive information such as phone numbers, emails, gender, age, sexual orientation, COVID-19 diagnoses and exposure status.

This blatant failure to protect Pennsylvanians and their privacy is certain to further undermine public trust in your administration's COVID-19 response. This latest scandal, yet another setback, will only hurt our commonwealth's fight against the virus.

As the only physician serving in Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation, I am particularly concerned about the vulnerability of Pennsylvanians' health data. On the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I am a strong proponent of bolstering our nation's cybersecurity and protecting individuals from bad actors online. In 2021, it is unacceptable that your administration lacked the oversight needed to defend Pennsylvanians' personal data from cyberattacks.

To protect the privacy of Pennsylvanians and shore up cyber vulnerabilities, I ask that you share with my office answers to the following urgent questions by May 7, 2021:

- How does the Pennsylvania Department of Health plan to strengthen its data collection policies to protect Pennsylvanians' privacy?
- Does the Pennsylvania Department of Health have regular reporting safeguards and monitoring of vendors' security protocols?
- Is the Pennsylvania Department of Health planning to conduct an investigation to ensure that other Pennsylvanians have not been affected by data breaches?
- Does the administration plan to end its support of contact tracing? If not, how will the administration re-establish Pennsylvanians' trust in the safety of this process?

While our commonwealth continues to make progress in our shared fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, I remain concerned that your administration's continued mistakes will undermine our recovery, slow mitigation efforts, and even cost lives. Moving forward, I urge you, Acting Secretary Alison Beam, and your administration to prioritize a fact-based, secure, and collaborative approach to eradicate the COVID-19 virus and restore our personal freedoms.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your expeditious response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Joyce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress