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United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

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The Honorable Mehmet Oz, MD
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave SW Room 337H
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Oz:

The Senate Special Committee on Aging recently held a hearing, [*Counting the Cost: Communist China's Toll on Older Americans' Health, Finances and Security*](#), with several commissioners from the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission as expert witnesses. During the hearing, the commissioners repeatedly emphasized the threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to the United States' healthcare system and American patients. The testimony we received made clear that the U.S. government must do everything possible to eliminate Communist China's access to America's health data. As the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) manage and develop federal health and payment policies, it is critical to ensure federal funds are used to protect patient health data and promote U.S. medical devices and pharmaceutical investments.

The CCP views the collection of health and genetic data as a national priority¹ and has a well-documented history of collecting genomic data from Americans—especially from health wearables and medical devices. That's why I, along with fellow Aging Committee member Senator Dave McCormick, recently wrote a letter to Brendan Carr, Chairman of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), calling for an investigation into Communist China-linked health wearables, including smartwatches and fitness trackers.²

Following my letter, China's Ministry of Science and Technology (through the Science and Technology Daily news outlet) attacked my efforts to protect the data privacy and security interests of the American people.³ By specifically citing Communist Chinese companies like Xiaomi and Zepp Health, this state media propaganda machine attempted to argue that these companies – and many like them – “can make a meaningful contribution” to the health and welfare of the American people. Given the CCP's documented history of data exfiltration and efforts to undermine our grid security⁴, as well as its efforts to weaponize personal data for AI development and deployment⁵, under no circumstances can these companies be allowed to access any government program under CMS purview.

¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/11/china/china-human-genetic-resources-regulations-intl-hnk-dst>

² <https://www.aging.senate.gov/press-releases/chairman-rick-scott-calls-for-investigation-into-ccp-linked-wearable-tech>

³ https://www.stdaily.com/web/English/2026-07/07/content_543272.html

⁴ <https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/2025/6/sens-rick-scott-marsha-blackburn-call-for-investigation-into-communist-china-s-potential-solar-power-kill-switch>

⁵ https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/E_and_C_Brain_Co_Letters_13e77686c0.pdf

This is not limited to consumer products. Communist China has companies that manufacture medical devices for our healthcare system. These offer no protection for patient data. For example, Contec Medical Systems makes a medical monitor that tracks vital signs. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) warned about an “embedded backdoor function with a hard-coded IP address and functionality that enables patient data spillage.”⁶ This is just one of many examples to show how far the CCP will go to obtain our health data, and it presents a real danger as Chinese medical device manufacturers are selling continuous glucose monitors (CGM) in the EU and desire to enter the U.S. market.

Last year, Congress passed the Working Families Tax Cuts (HR 1), which included a \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Fund (RHTF). Rural providers can use these funds to purchase “health care items,” “new and emerging technologies,” and “prioritize data and technology driven solutions.” It is essential that we do not allow Communist China or Chinese manufacturers to exploit these funds as an opportunity to sell products to rural health providers at the American taxpayer’s expense. Chinese medical devices are already found throughout hospital settings, and we should not be expanding their reach. The American Hospital Association already views the use of Chinese medical devices as a threat.⁷

Given these threats, I believe it is essential that CMS prioritize buying American-made medical devices and pharmaceutical drugs from American-owned companies, not Chinese companies that own American subsidiaries. CMS should require that any medical device or service provider store its data domestically, and not in Communist China. No federal funds should ever be used to purchase medical devices or equipment that is manufactured in China when an alternative domestic supplier is available.

As CMS proceeds with various payment policies, such as competitive bidding or RHTF, and program updates, it must ensure federal spending remains consistent with America First policies and patient privacy. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure America’s patients are protected from all threats posed by Communist China and advancing President Trump’s America First agenda to Make America Healthy Again.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
Chairman
Senate Special Committee on Aging

⁶ <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/contec-cms8000-contains-backdoor>

⁷ <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/02/23/china-made-medical-devices-are-all-over-us-and-the-feds-are-worried.html>