



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dane County Chapter

July 9, 2020

President Donald Trump announced on July 7th that his administration was withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO). Without the participation of the United States and the funding it provides to the agency, the WHO will be unable to carry on its life-saving work, putting global health at risk -- and putting each of us at risk.

The move will not be effective until July 6, 2021, so there is still time to stop this from happening. The United Nations Association (UNA) Dane County is asking that south-central Wisconsin residents contact the President and their elected representatives to urge them to support continued membership in this vital agency at a time of immense need.

As Thomas Frieden, a former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pointed out, "Without WHO the world would not have eradicated smallpox, multidrug resistant tuberculosis would have spread much more widely, and we would have much weaker systems to track influenza and other deadly infections."

"It is with a heavy heart that the members of the UNA of Dane County saw the news that President Trump has decided to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization at a time when a health pandemic is sweeping throughout the entire world," chapter president Mary Rathbun said. "It is a time when everyone without exception must commit all their energies to protecting and healing people in harms way of Covid-19. It is not a time to withdraw from the only organization that is working on this everywhere in the world – not just in one country." The United Nations Association (UNA) of Dane County believes withdrawing from the WHO is a misguided decision.

UNA Dane County is one of the 200 chapters of the United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) located throughout the country and has been a part of the Dane County non-profit community for some 70 years. We are dedicated to educating, inspiring, and mobilizing people in South-Central Wisconsin to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations.