

Project 2025's Health And Human Services Manifesto—Led By Anti-LGBTQ Activist Roger Severino—Would Bust Up The CDC, Ban Abortion Nationwide, And End Medicare Drug Price Negotiations

SUMMARY: Roger Severino is a former Trump official at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the spouse of the [conservative activist Carrie Severino](#). He is also the likeliest candidate to replace Xavier Becerra as the head of HHS, should Republicans retake the White House in November.

At HHS, Severino [created a “religious freedom” division](#) which aided healthcare providers that refused to provide abortions and gender-affirming care for transgender patients. Much of Severino's career has been dedicated to an anti-LGBTQ agenda and spearheading anti-abortion initiatives:

- While Severino was the director of the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Trump administration “[finalized a rule that would remove nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people when it comes to health care and health insurance.](#)”
- Severino also created a new division within the HHS Civil Rights Office, the Division of Conscience and Religious Freedom, which was intended to “[ensure that health care workers and health care companies are never forced to participate in particular medical services — such as abortion and assisted suicide — if they object.](#)” He has also said that “protecting conscience and religious freedom” was his more important legacy of his time at HHS.
- When Severino was at The Heritage Foundation, he “[argued that health workers be allowed to opt out of participating in medical procedures that could further gender transitions.](#)”

Severino also previously worked at Becket Law, formerly known as Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a law firm “[behind some of the most high-profile Supreme Court cases in the last decade](#)” that takes pride in its “work against LGBT equality and reproductive justice.”

Now, Severino [serves](#) as the Vice President of Domestic Policy at the Heritage Foundation, where he advises [Project 2025](#), the right-wing initiative developing extremist political agenda and rostering the next Republican administration. In 2023, Severino penned a chapter on HHS for Project 2025's “[Mandate for Leadership](#),” the group's 900-page compendium of policy proposals. In his writing, Severino laid out his vision for the federal department that oversees agencies like the CDC and NIH and vital programs such as Medicare and Head Start. The chapter provides a taste of what Severino will bring to HHS should he become its leader:

- HHS would reject the notion that abortion is healthcare, lobby the President to enforce the Comstock Act, and rescind the FDA's approval of mifepristone—actions that would effectively prevent Americans from accessing abortion care regardless of where they reside in the U.S. Severino has called the Comstock Act “[good law](#)” and alleged that mifepristone is “[dangerous.](#)”
- HHS would lobby Congress to split the CDC in two to weaken its authority on public health matters.
- HHS would exclude LGBTQ+ individuals from the department's anti-discrimination policies and redirect grant money to religious organizations that discriminate against LGBTQ+ Americans and their families.
- HHS would lobby Congress to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act's Medicare drug price negotiations.
- HHS would eliminate the Head Start program, ending free preschool education for the children of low-income families.

Despite being considered for top positions within HHS in a future conservative administration, Severino has platformed and amplified anti-LGBTQ+ voices from the fringes of the far-right and has promoted vaccine conspiracy theories and misinformation.

- Severino has praised groups like [Libs of TikTok](#) and [Moms for Liberty](#), which spread dangerous misinformation about transgender people and issues.
- Severino retweeted [a Heritage fellow](#) who falsely claimed that Ivermectin is an effective treatment for covid-19, promoted [a debunked documentary](#) which pushed ridiculous theories about excess deaths after the vaccine was developed and he interviewed [a professor who was fired](#) for refusing to get vaccinated.
- He has also voiced controversial opinions on the Jim Crow era and the FBI investigations of former President Trump.

Despite a lack [of popular support](#), Severino's promotion of this political agenda is in keeping with the broader conservative movement's modus operandi: Impose your unpopular right-wing beliefs on all Americans whether they like it or not.

Roger Severino, A Former Official At HHS Under Trump, Has Been Anointed By The MAGA Movement To Lead The Department In The Next GOP Administration Where He Will Use His Power To Ban Abortion Nationwide And Discriminate Against LGBTQ+ Americans, Among Other Widely Unpopular Policies.

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Roger Severino Is The Vice President Of Domestic Policy At The Heritage Foundation. "Roger Severino is Vice President of Domestic Policy and The Joseph C. and Elizabeth A. Anderlik Fellow at The Heritage Foundation. Severino is a national authority on civil rights, conscience and religious freedom, the administrative state, and information privacy, particularly as applied to health care law and policy. Find his tweets at @RogerSeverino_." [Heritage Foundation, [2/15/24](#)]

Roger Severino Is Married To Carrie Severino, The President Of Judicial Crisis Network. "Carrie Severino, President of the Judicial Crisis Network...She is a legal scholar, practicing Catholic, and mother—she has six children to Barrett's seven—and is also married to a lawyer, Roger Severino, whom she met at Harvard Law. While Barrett clerked for the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Severino clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas, who swore in Barrett in a special White House ceremony the evening of the Senate vote. Roger Severino is Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Severinos were recently hailed, in a surprisingly friendly New York Times article, as a 'D.C. conservative power-couple.'" [Independent Women's Forum, [11/2/20](#)]

- **Judicial Crisis Network Is A Node In Leonard Leo's Dark Money Network.** "From 2016 until the present, a group called the Judicial Crisis Network (which is now known as the Concord Fund), was a regular donor to state judicial races. Leo has no official role at the JCN, which as a dark money group does not have to disclose its donors. But he helped create and raise money for it, and JCN often works toward the same goals as the Federalist Society." [The Guardian, [10/23/23](#)]

Severino "Was Director Of HHS' Office For Civil Rights" From 2017 To 2021. "Severino spearheaded the HHS Accountability Project while a Senior Fellow at EPPC from 2021 – 2023. Previously, Severino was Director of HHS' Office for Civil Rights, where he led a team of over 250 staff enforcing our nation's civil rights,

conscience and religious freedom, and health information privacy laws. He served from 2017 to 2021 and was the longest-serving OCR director of the past three decades.” [Heritage Foundation, [2/15/24](#)]

Severino Is An “Anti-LGBTQ Activist” With “Extreme Views Opposing Transgender People And Women’s Rights” Who, Before HHS, Worked To Oppose “Critical Non-Discrimination Protections” In Federal Health Programs.

Human Rights Watch Described Severino As An “Anti-LGBTQ Activist,” Saying His “Extreme Views Opposing Transgender People And Women’s Rights Have Garnered Praise And Prominence From The Far Right.” “HRC blasted President Trump’s decision to appoint anti-LGBTQ activist Roger Severino to lead the division charged with enforcing civil rights law at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Trump quietly selected Severino this week to serve as Director of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at HHS. Severino’s extreme views opposing transgender people and women’s rights have garnered praise and prominence from the far right.” [Human Rights Watch, [3/24/17](#)]

During Severino’s Time Directing The Heritage Foundation’s DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society, He “Wrote Scathing Opinions On Transgender Issues, Abortion Rights, And Gay Marriage” And Worked To Oppose “Critical Non-Discrimination Protections Based On Gender Identity And Sex Stereotyping In Federally-Funded Health Programs.” “Until this week, Severino served as Director of the DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society for the Heritage Foundation where he wrote scathing opinions on transgender issues, abortion rights, and gay marriage. He repeatedly denounced and worked to oppose OCR’s implementation of Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, which provides critical non-discrimination protections based on gender identity and sex stereotyping in federally-funded health programs. He also referred to the Obama Administration’s guidance to allow transgender students to use the bathroom that matched their gender identity as a “radical social experiment.” [Human Rights Watch, [3/24/17](#)]

While At HHS, Severino Implemented Multiple Rules Intended To Roll Back Healthcare Protections For LGBTQ People And Women.

While Severino Was The Director Of The Office For Civil Rights In The Department Of Health And Human Services, The Trump Administration “Finalized A Rule That Would Remove Nondiscrimination Protections For LGBTQ People When It Comes To Health Care And Health Insurance.” “The Trump administration on Friday finalized a rule that would remove nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people when it comes to health care and health insurance. ‘HHS respects the dignity of every human being, and as we have shown in our response to the pandemic, we vigorously protect and enforce the civil rights of all to the fullest extent permitted by our laws as passed by Congress,’ said Roger Severino, who directs the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Health and Human Services, in a written statement announcing that the HHS rule had become final. The rule is set to go into effect by mid-August.’ [NPR, [6/12/20](#)]

Severino “Led Several Antiabortion Efforts At HHS Under Trump.” “Roger Severino, who led several antiabortion efforts at HHS under Trump, said the movement is more focused on potential agency actions than passing a national abortion ban, which leaders privately acknowledge is extremely unlikely to make it through a divided Congress.” [The Washington Post, [1/5/24](#)]

At HHS, Severino “Issued A Rule That Allows Employers To Refuse To Cover Birth Control As Part Of Their Employee Health Insurance Plans, If Employers Have A Religious Or Moral Objection To Contraception.” “That’s because Severino — a devout Catholic and political conservative — has put the right to religious freedom front and center in his fight against discrimination in health care. In public appearances he refers to religious freedom as ‘the first freedom.’ Since coming to HHS he has issued a rule that allows employers to refuse to cover birth control as part of their employee health insurance plans, if employers have a religious or moral objection to contraception.” [NPR, [3/20/18](#)]

Severino Also Created A New Division Within The HHS Civil Rights Office, The Division Of Conscience And Religious Freedom, Which Was Intended To “Ensure That Health Care Workers And Health Care Companies Are Never Forced To Participate In Particular Medical Services — Such As Abortion And

Assisted Suicide — If They Object.” “And earlier this year he created an entirely new division within the civil rights office — the Division of Conscience and Religious Freedom. Its mission, he says, is to ensure that health care workers and health care companies are never forced to participate in particular medical services — such as abortion and assisted suicide — if they object. When he was at the conservative Heritage Foundation, he also argued that health workers be allowed to opt out of participating in medical procedures that could further gender transitions.” [NPR, [3/20/18](#)]

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Severino Previously Worked At Becket Law, Formerly Known As Becket Fund For Religious Liberty, A Law Firm “Behind Some Of The Most High-Profile Supreme Court Cases In The Last Decade” That Takes Pride In Its “Work Against LGBT Equality And Reproductive Justice.”

Severino Worked For The Becket Fund, A Religious Liberty Law Firm. “Before Severino came to OCR, he led a center on religion—named for and funded in part by the family of the education secretary, Betsy DeVos—at the Heritage Foundation, the conservative Washington think tank. He also worked at the Becket Fund, the religious-liberty law firm best known for its victories in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* and *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Burwell*—cases litigated after Severino’s tenure that challenged Obamacare’s contraceptive mandate on religious grounds.” [The Atlantic, [6/7/17](#)]

- **Becket Fund Is “Best Known For Its Victories In *Burwell V. Hobby Lobby* And *Little Sisters Of The Poor V. Burwell*,” Which Were Cases Litigated After Severino’s Tenure At The Firm.** “Before Severino came to OCR, he led a center on religion—named for and funded in part by the family of the education secretary, Betsy DeVos—at the Heritage Foundation, the conservative Washington think tank. He also worked at the Becket Fund, the religious-liberty law firm best known for its victories in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* and *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Burwell*—cases litigated after Severino’s tenure that challenged Obamacare’s contraceptive mandate on religious grounds.” [The Atlantic, [6/7/17](#)]
- **The Two Cases Becket Fund Is Best Known For “Challenged Obamacare’s Contraceptive Mandate On Religious Grounds.”** “Before Severino came to OCR, he led a center on religion—named for and funded in part by the family of the education secretary, Betsy DeVos—at the Heritage Foundation, the conservative Washington think tank. He also worked at the Becket Fund, the religious-liberty law firm best known for its victories in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* and *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Burwell*—cases litigated after Severino’s tenure that challenged Obamacare’s contraceptive mandate on religious grounds.” [The Atlantic, [6/7/17](#)]

Becket Fund For Religious Liberty, Now Known As Becket Law, Was “Behind Some Of The Most High-Profile Supreme Court Cases In The Last Decade” Which Takes Pride In Its “Work Against LGBT Equality And Reproductive Justice.” “Behind some of the most high-profile Supreme Court cases in the last decade is a conservative legal advocacy group that takes pride in their work against LGBT equality and reproductive justice – all in the name of religious liberty. And they’re winning. Becket Law, formerly the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, holds an 8-0 track record of Supreme Court cases since 2012.” [Reckon, [8/10/23](#)]

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Roger Severino Penned The Project 2025's Playbook On The Department Of Health And Human Services (HHS), Where He Outlined A Radical Agenda That Would Eliminate Abortion Access Nationwide, Codify Discrimination Against LGBTQ+ Individuals, And Gut Programs Benefiting Low-Income Families

Roger Severino Penned The Chapter On The Department Of Health And Human Services In Project 2025's *Mandate For Leadership* And Speculates That A Future Republican President Would Likely Nominate A "Pro-Life" HHS Secretary.

Roger Severino Authored The Chapter On The Department Of Health And Human Services.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES**
Roger Severino

[Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino, In Discussing His Authorship Of Project 2025's HHS Playbook, "Said He Feels 'Confident' That Trump Would Appoint An HHS Secretary Who Is 'Pro-Life.'" "Leading advocates are concentrating on refining recommendations for two agencies with enormous power over abortion-related policies nationwide — the Justice and Health and Human Services departments — such as revisiting the 2000 approval of a key abortion drug and halting the mailing of abortion pills, according to a document published by the conservative Heritage Foundation. [...] Severino, who wrote the portion of the Heritage document that pertains to HHS, said he feels 'confident' that Trump would appoint an HHS secretary who is 'pro-life.'" [The Washington Post, [1/5/24](#)]

Severino Reportedly Said In 2019 That His Most Important Legacy At HHS Was Protecting "Conscience And Religious Freedom." "I'm privileged and honored to be part of what President Trump has set in motion. He's set in motion a reinvigorated defense of religious freedom to make sure that this fundamental human right becomes an institutionalized part of our government so that it is treated at least as well as every other civil right. And for too many years, for too long, these rights have not been respected. And I think you're right, my legacy will be what we've done to respect conscience and religious freedom at HHS and hopefully beyond. I'm very proud of the work of my team in achieving that important milestone." [YouTube, [10/09/19](#)]

Severino Would Reject The Notion That Abortion Is Healthcare And Disband Department's Reproductive Healthcare Access Task Force.

Severino Would Transform HHS Into A "Department Of Life" By "Explicitly Rejecting The Notion That Abortion Is Health Care." "Additionally, HHS should return to being known as the Department of Life by explicitly rejecting the notion that abortion is health care and by restoring its mission statement under the Strategic Plan and elsewhere to include furthering the health and well-being of all Americans 'from conception to natural death.'" [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Would Disband The Reproductive Healthcare Access Task Force And Install In Its Place A “Pro-Life Task Force.” “The Office of the Secretary should eliminate the HHS Reproductive Healthcare Access Task Force and install a pro-life task force to ensure that all of the department’s divisions seek to use their authority to promote the life and health of women and their unborn children.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

- **The Task Force On Reproductive Healthcare Access Is Composed Of Senior-Level HHS Officials And Is Tasked With Reducing Barriers To Accessing Quality Sexual And Reproductive Health Care.** “The Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access (Task Force) is composed of senior-level HHS officials who have been designated by their respective agencies to identify and coordinate activities across the Department to protect and bolster access to essential sexual and reproductive health care...The working group activities are focused on advancing quality, access, and equity for reproductive health, rights, and justice and include coordinating federal interagency policymaking, program development, and outreach efforts to address barriers impacting individuals and communities seeking reproductive health care.” [Department of Health and Human Services, [1/21/22](#)]

Under Severino, HHS Would Exclude LGBTQ+ Individuals From The Department’s Anti-Discrimination Policies And He Has Suggested That HHS Should Adopt Policies That “Prioritize Married Father Engagement”

Severino Called For The Secretary’s Antidiscrimination Policy Statements To Exclude LGBTQ+ Identities. “The Secretary’s antidiscrimination policy statements should never conflate sex with gender identity or sexual orientation. Rather, the Secretary should proudly state that men and women are biological realities that are crucial to the advancement of life sciences and medical care and that married men and women are the ideal, natural family structure because all children have a right to be raised by the men and women who conceived them.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

- **Severino Has Echoed This Sentiment In Public In Comments, Speeches And Online Interviews, Mockingly Asking “How Many Pronouns Do We Need To Be Using In Hospitals And In Science?”** “Biden, Becerra and Levine are saying ‘none of that matters, the people’s voice doesn’t matter, we’re going to do what we’re going to do and worse than that we’re not even going to tell you how exactly we’re going to enforce the transgender mandates. How many genders do we believe there are? How many pronouns do we need to be using in hospitals and in science?’ They’re not going to tell us. But they are going to have this loaded gun, saying if you received HHS funds, Medicare and Medicaid or research at universities, you have to follow this new transgender ideology, but we’re not going to tell exactly what that means. You’re going to have to wait and see when we take enforcement actions to take away your federal funds.” [Rumble, [05/11/21](#)]
 - **In A 2021 Interview Severino Said Science And Medicine “Are Based On A Biological Reality Of Male And Female”.** “Healthcare, science, medicine are based on a biological reality of male and female. That’s what it comes down to. People react differently to drugs based on their sex, we have entire wards dedicated for labor and delivery for biological females. The practice of OB/GYNs is based on those realities, all that is at risk of being swept aside in the name of an unscientific ideology that is just trying to wipe those all away and say they’re just social constructs.” [Rumble, [05/11/21](#)]
 - **In A 2021 Speech To The Thomas More College Of Liberal Arts, Severino Advocated For The Narrowed Definition Of Gender Identity, Restricting It To Only Male And Female.** “I

had to argue for what sex meant in 1972. Did it mean male and female? [...] In the federal government under Trump, was that sex is male and female and biological. We stated it, we went on the record. And that is so important for your federal government to actually be on record saying that. Now the Biden Administration very quickly reversed course and said its subjective, male-female, both-neither, some combination, that's actually the position. But your federal government went on the record standing for that truth that has tremendous consequences.” [YouTube, [07/02/21](#)]

Severino Would Redirect Grant Money To Faith-Based Adoption Agencies That Discriminate Against LGBTQ+ Parents. “HHS, through ACF and the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources (ASFR), should repeal the unnecessary 2016 regulation that imposes nonstatutory sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination conditions on agency grants and return to the policy of maximizing the options for placing vulnerable children in their forever homes. ACF and OCR should also survey their programs to consider whether additional waivers of HHS grant conditions—waivers the Biden Administration revoked in 2021—are needed for faith-based agencies.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

In The Project 2025 Manual, Severino Wrote Dismissively Of “LGBTQ+ Equity” And Claims The Biden Administration Is “Subsidizing Single-Motherhood, Disincentivizing Work And Penalizing Marriage.” “Goal #3: Promoting Stable and Flourishing Married Families. Families comprised of a married mother, father, and their children are the foundation of a well-ordered nation and healthy society. Unfortunately, family policies and programs under President Biden’s HHS are fraught with agenda items focusing on “LGBTQ+ equity,” subsidizing single-motherhood, disincentivizing work, and penalizing marriage.” [Project 2025, Chapter 14: Department of Health & Human Services, p. 451, [2023](#)]

- **Severino Also States That “These Policies Should Be Repealed And Replaced By Policies That Support The Formation Of Stable, Married, Nuclear Families” And Emphasizes The Role Of “Biological Fathers And Mothers” And “Married Father Engagement”.** “These policies should be repealed and replaced by policies that support the formation of stable, married, nuclear families. Working fathers are essential to the well-being and development of their children, but the United States is experiencing a crisis of fatherlessness that is ruining our children’s futures. In the overwhelming number of cases, fathers insulate children from physical and sexual abuse, financial difficulty or poverty, incarceration, teen pregnancy, poor educational outcomes, high school failure, and a host of behavioral and psychological problems. By contrast, homes with non-related “boyfriends” present are among the most dangerous place for a child to be. HHS should prioritize married father engagement in its messaging, health, and welfare policies. In the context of current and emerging reproductive technologies, HHS policies should never place the desires of adults over the right of children to be raised by the biological fathers and mothers who conceive them.” [Project 2025, Chapter 14: Department of Health & Human Services, p. 451, [2023](#)]

Severino Argued In Favor Of Breaking Up The Centers For Disease Control And Prevention In Order To Hamstring The Agency.

Severino Wrote That The CDC “Should Be Separated Into Two Entirely Separate Agencies With A Firewall Between Them:” One Agency That Is A Clearinghouse For Health-Related Data And Another For Making Public Health Recommendations. “The CDC should be split into two separate entities housing its two distinct functions. On the one hand, the CDC is now responsible for collecting, synthesizing, and publishing epidemiological data from the individual states—a scientific data-gathering function... On the other hand, the CDC is also responsible for making public health recommendations and policies—an inescapably political function... These distinct functions should be separated into two entirely separate agencies with a firewall between them.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

According To Severino, The Second Agency Would Have “A Severely Confined Ability To Make Policy Recommendations. “We need a national epidemiological agency responsible only for publishing data and required by law to publish all of the data gathered from states and other sources. A separate agency should be responsible for public health with a severely confined ability to make policy recommendations. [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

- **In Discussing The CDC’s Recommendation To Close Places Of Worship During The COVID-19 Pandemic, Severino Asked, “What Is The Proper Balance Of Lives Saved Versus Souls Saved?”** “For example, how much risk mitigation is worth the price of shutting down churches on the holiest day of the Christian calendar and far beyond as happened in 2020? What is the proper balance of lives saved versus souls saved? The CDC has no business making such inherently political (and often unconstitutional) assessments and should be required by law to stay in its lane.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]
- **In A 2023 Discussion At The University Of Dallas, When Asked About The Conflict Between Conscience And Religious Freedom And Vaccine Mandates, Severino Argued That The Federal Government Has No Role In Requiring Vaccines And Has No Duty To Protect The U.S. Public In Non-Military Contexts.** “The latest mandate is based on the Occupational Safety And Health Administration. Hard hats and chemicals in the workplace is being expanded beyond all recognition to cover the status of being a person that is not vaccinated, that is treating workers themselves as dangerous substances. It is the worker who is the threat, it’s not the environment, it’s you if you don’t have the vaccine. I think it’s undeniable that the vaccine has saved so many thousands of lives. Then there’s the question of how far is the government empowered to go to coerce people when the vaccine is readily available to every single person and increasingly now children even, who want to have it. What is the health and safety threat that would have to be addressed and does the government have the power to do it at the federal level? At the federal level, certainly not. We’re a government of limited powers. It’s in the Constitution. There’s not a, what’s called a general police power, at the federal level to be able to govern our ability to guarantee our own safety. Safety from an invasion from a foreign occupying army, yes. That sort of safety, yes, is the government’s duty. But safety from every risk of life is not the federal duty. And when we give the government that sort of power, they will eventually abuse it. And when it comes to questions of conscience and religious freedom, they will.” [YouTube, [10/20/23](#)]
- **Severino Also Made Improper Comparisons To Segregation And “Undocumented People” When Talking About People Who Refuse Vaccines.** “We’re getting closer and closer where it is purely to send a message that you are the outsider group and these are the insider group, which goes contrary to our civil rights tradition of making a space for everybody wherever they come from and not having segregated classes of society based on their papers. We’re talking about vaccine papers, undocumented people. This is the new civil rights question in many ways is going to come to this.” [YouTube, [10/20/23](#)]

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Under Severino, The CDC Would Continue To Provide Public Health Guidance But, Paradoxically, Would Refrain From Using The Word “Should.”

Severino Wrote That The CDC Should Continue To Provide Guidance But Not Provide Recommendations That Include The Word “Should.” “We have learned that when CDC says what people “should” do, it readily becomes a “must” backed by severe punishments, including criminal penalties. CDC should report on the risks and effectiveness of all infectious disease-mitigation measures dispassionately and leave the “should” and “must” policy calls to politically accountable parties” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Threatened To Cut Funding To Any State That Does Not Submit Abortion Data To The CDC's Surveillance Systems.

The CDC Conducts Abortion Surveillance Every Year By Requesting Abortion Data From Central Health Agencies Of All Fifty States, The District Of Columbia, And New York City. “CDC conducts abortion surveillance to document the number and characteristics of women obtaining legal induced abortions and number of abortion-related deaths in the United States...Each year, CDC requests abortion data from the central health agencies for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and New York City.” [CDC, [11/25/22](#)]

According To Severino, California, Maryland, And New Hampshire Do Not Submit Abortion Data To The CDC. “CDC abortion data are reported by states on a voluntary basis, and California, Maryland, and New Hampshire do not submit abortion data at all.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Wrote That HHS Should Cut Funding To Non-Reporting States In Order To Strong-Arm Them Into Sending Abortion Data. “Because liberal states have now become sanctuaries for abortion tourism, HHS should use every available tool, including the cutting of funds, to ensure that every state reports exactly how many abortions take place within its borders, at what gestational age of the child, for what reason, the mother’s state of residence, and by what method.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Endorsed The Ensuring Accurate And Complete Abortion Data Of 2023. “The Ensuring Accurate and Complete Abortion Data Reporting Act of 2023⁹ would amend title XIX of the Social Security Act and Public Health Service Act to improve the CDC’s abortion reporting mechanisms by requiring states, as a condition of federal Medicaid payments for family planning services, to report streamlined variables in a timely manner.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

- **This Legislation Would Mandate States To Submit Abortion Data As A Condition Of Receiving Medicaid Payments For Family Planning Services.** “This bill requires states, as a condition of federal payment under Medicaid for family planning services, to report certain abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (Currently, reporting is voluntary.) The CDC must develop standardized questions for states with respect to specified variables (e.g., maternal demographics and methods of abortion).” [Congress.gov, accessed [2/23/24](#)]

Severino Would Remove The Approval Of Mifepristone And Misoprostol, Two Drugs Widely Used To Induce Chemical Abortions.

Severino Would Instruct The Food & Drug Administration To Rescind The Approval Of Mifepristone And Misoprostol, The Two Drugs Used In Chemical Abortions. “The abortion pill regimen is typically a two-part process. The first pill, mifepristone, causes the death of the unborn child by cutting off the hormone progesterone, which is required to sustain a pregnancy. The second pill, misoprostol, causes contractions to induce a delivery of the dead child and uterine contents, usually into a toilet at home...FDA should therefore...Reverse its approval of chemical abortion drugs because the politicized approval process was illegal from the start.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

- **A Study Published In 2022 Found That Medication Abortion (Abortion By Taking Mifepristone And Misoprostol) Accounted For Half Of All Abortions In The U.S. In 2020.** “This analysis and accompanying graphic have been updated to reflect the final data from Guttmacher’s census of all known abortion providers, which found that medication abortion accounted for 53% of all facility-based abortions in the United States in 2020...In 2000, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved

mifepristone as a method of abortion. Taken along with misoprostol, the two-drug combination is known as medication abortion or the ‘abortion pill.’” [Guttmacher Institute, [2/24/22](#)]

The FDA’s Decades-Old Approval Of Mifepristone Is Currently The Subject Of The U.S. Supreme Court Case Alliance For Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA. “This case filed by anti-abortion advocates challenging the FDA’s approval of an abortion drug places medication abortion at risk across the U.S....Case update: The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in this case on March 26, 2024.” [Center for Reproductive Rights, accessed [2/23/24](#)]

Severino Spread A Number Of Falsehoods About The Abortion Pill Mifepristone, Including An Allegation That It Is “Dangerous To Women”. “We saw this happen with the abortion pill, recently a Fifth Circuit decision upheld Judge Kazmaryk, a hero judge in Texas who said that the abortion pill that was relaxed in terms of the safety protocols by this administration, that relaxation was unlawful. And the Fifth Circuit upheld Judge Kazmaryk’s decision. Again, this administration is playing fast and loose, trying to make the abortion pill something like an over-the-counter vitamin. It is not. It is designed to end a child’s life. It is dangerous to women, not to mention an unborn child. And of course, we’re all pushing back and saying ‘look this abortion extremism is now endangering women’s lives.’ You’re saying you’re about women’s health and yet you’re endangering women’s lives by pushing do-it-yourself, at-home abortions, left and right without proper safety protocols?” [Rumble, [08/21/23](#)]

Severino Called For The Enforcement Of The Comstock Act, An Unenforced Law Passed In 1873 Which Prohibited The Mailing And Interstate Carriage Of Abortion Drugs.

Severino Promoted The Enforcement Of “Long-Standing Federal Laws That Prohibit The Mail Of Interstate Carriage Of Abortion Drugs.” “Stop promoting or approving mail-order abortions in violation of long-standing federal laws that prohibit the mailing and interstate carriage of abortion drugs.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

- **An Endnote Cited Title 18 Of The U.S. Code.**

16. 18 U.S.C. 1461, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1461> (accessed March 16, 2023), and 18 U.S.C. 1462, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1462> (accessed March 16, 2023).

[Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

The Cited Section Of The U.S. Code Is Also Called The Comstock Act. “The Comstock Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1461 (1873)” [Journal of Gender, Race & Justice, [4/13/23](#)]

- **Passed In 1873, The Comstock Act Outlawed The Mailing Of Any Instrument Or Medication Intended To Induce An Abortion.** “In 1873, Congress passed the Comstock Act, a law aimed at prohibiting the distribution of “obscene literature” or any “article, instrument, substance, drug, medicine, or thing” intended to “produc[e] [an] abortion” or “any indecent or moral purpose” through the United States Postal System. The Comstock Act granted powers for government official to search and confiscate private mail, destroy intercepted “obscene” material, and prosecute writers and booksellers distributing the material.” [Journal of Gender, Race & Justice, [4/13/23](#)]
- **Parts Of The Law Have Been Repealed And The Law Has Remained Dormant For The Past Fifty Years.** “The clauses specifically prohibiting contraception mailings were removed in 1971, and the remainder of the law laid dormant during the 50-year period that Roe v. Wade was precedent. The

remainder of the law was never repealed.” [Journal of Gender, Race & Justice, [4/13/23](#)]

Enforcing The Comstock Act Could Inhibit All Abortion Care, Even In States Where Abortion Is Legal.

“Returning to an older interpretation of the Comstock Act would have repercussions far beyond mifepristone, Professor Cohen said. The Comstock Act does not only refer to drugs, he said, but also to anything used for an abortion, which could include things like surgical gloves and medical instruments. “Everything in a doctor’s office comes from the mail or FedEx or UPS or some version of that,” Professor Cohen said. ‘So if you can’t mail anything that’s used to induce an abortion, it would end abortion nationwide.” [The New York Times, [5/16/23](#)]

In An Appearance On Washington Watch With Tony Perkins, Severino Said The Comstock Act Is “Good Law.”

“Additionally, The Comstock Act, which actually prohibits the interstate trafficking of abortion pills, is good law. Congress had a chance to re-affirm it in the 70s and left that portion of it untouched. So that is good law that the Biden Administration again is ignoring. It is illegal today to use the mails to transmit and transport abortion drugs. The Biden Administration is flat ignoring the law.” [Rumble, [08/21/23](#)]

In 2023, Severino Tweeted “I Am Reminded That Abortion Itself Comes From A Place Of Pain And Despair.”



Roger Severino  @RogerSeverino_ · Nov 8, 2023

As I mourn yesterday's results I am reminded that abortion itself comes from a place of pain and despair. I feel compassion for the many children whose lives will be lost and also for the mothers and fathers who feel they have no other option in today's upside-down world.

[Twitter, [11/08/23](#)]

Severino Would Prevent NIH From Pursuing Research On Fetal Tissue And Embryonic Stem Cells, Two Promising Techniques To Treat Serious Medical Conditions, And Advocated For Congress To Ban Such Research.

Fetal Tissue Research Is Medical Research Using Cells Of Aborted Fetuses. “Fetal tissue research involves cells from dead fetuses that are harvested for the purpose of establishing cell lines or for use as transplantation material and other purposes. There are two sources of such fetal tissue—elective (or induced) abortions and spontaneous (or natural) abortions.” [National Center for Biotechnology Information, [1994](#)]

- **University Of Pittsburgh: Fetal Tissue Research “Plays A Crucial Role” In Understanding And Curing Serious Diseases “Including Alzheimer’s, ALS, Diabetes And Parkinson’s.”** “Fetal tissue research plays a crucial role in scientists’ efforts to combat and cure some of our most devastating diseases, including Alzheimer’s, ALS, diabetes and Parkinson’s.” [University of Pittsburgh, revised [2/26/24](#)]

Embryonic Stem Cells Are Cells Found In Human Embryos Less Than A Week After Fertilization, And Are Extracted By Destroying The Embryo. “Embryonic stem cells (ESCs) are found in the inner cell mass of the human blastocyst, an early stage of the developing embryo lasting from the 4th to 7th day after fertilization. [...] Embryos from which ESCs are extracted are destroyed in the process.” [National Center for Biotechnology Information, [2002](#)]

- **Mayo Clinic: Therapies Using Embryonic Stem Cells Are “The Next Chapter In Organ Transplantation.”** “Stem cell therapy, also known as regenerative medicine, promotes the repair response of diseased, dysfunctional or injured tissue using stem cells or their derivatives. It is the next chapter in organ transplantation and uses cells instead of donor organs, which are limited in supply.” [Mayo Clinic, [3/19/22](#)]

Severino Opposed Research Using Fetal Tissue Or Embryonic Stem Cells, Arguing That Such Research Is “Immoral” Because It “Involves The Destruction Of Human Life.” “Research using fetal tissue obtained from elective abortions is immoral and obsolete. Research using human embryonic stem cells also involves the destruction of human life and should not be subsidized with taxpayer dollars.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Advocated For HHS To End All Fetal Tissue And Embryonic Stem Cell Research At NIH And To Implement Measures To Prevent Future Research. “HHS should: [...] End intramural research projects using tissue from aborted children within the NIH, which should end its human embryonic stem cell registry. Aggressively implement a plan to pursue and fund ethical alternative methods of research in order to ensure that abortion and embryo-destructive related research, cell lines, and other testing methods become both fully obsolete and ethically unthinkable.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Asked For Congress To Ban Fetal Tissue Research. “HHS should: Promptly restore the ethics advisory committee to oversee abortion-derived fetal tissue research, and Congress should prohibit such research altogether.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Intends To Weaponize HHS To Promote An Anti-Abortion Research Agenda.

Severino Would Direct HHS To “Create And Promote A Research Agenda That Supports Pro-Life Policies And Explores The Harms” Of Abortion. “Finally, HHS should create and promote a research agenda that supports prolife policies and explores the harms, both mental and physical, that abortion has wrought on women and girls.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Advocated For Gutting NIH’s Funding And Leadership, Under The Guise Of Eliminating Supposed Conflicts Of Interest Between NIH And Pharmaceutical Companies.

Severino Claimed That There Are “Serious Conflicts Of Interest” Between NIH And The Pharmaceutical Industry. “NIH maintains inappropriate industry ties that create serious conflicts of interest.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Advocated Term Limits For Career NIH Leadership. “Term limits should be imposed on top career leaders at the NIH [...] .” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Proposed That Congress Redirect NIH’s Medical Research Funding To State Level Research Agencies. “[...] Congress should consider block granting NIH’s grants budget to states to fund their own scientific research.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Supported “Decommission[ing]” The CDC And NIH Foundations. “The CDC and NIH Foundations, whose boards are populated with pharmaceutical company executives, need to be

decommissioned. Private donations to these foundations—a majority of them from pharmaceutical companies—should not be permitted to influence government decisions about research funding or public health policy.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

- **The CDC Foundation Has Spent Billions Of Dollars On Hundreds Of Health-Related Programs.** “Since 1995, the CDC Foundation has raised over \$2.2 billion and launched 1,400 programs impacting a variety of health threats from chronic disease conditions including cardiovascular disease and cancer, to infectious diseases like rotavirus and HIV, to emergency responses, including COVID-19 and Ebola. The CDC Foundation managed hundreds of programs in the United States and in 77 countries last year.” [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reviewed [1/23/24](#)]
- **The NIH Foundation Has Spent More Than One Billion Dollars On Hundreds Of Health-Related Programs.**



[Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, Health Impact Report, [2022](#)]

Severino Would Weaponize NIH To Promote Discredited Anti-Trans Talking Points.

Severino Wrote That NIH “Has Been At The Forefront In Pushing Junk Gender Science.” “NIH has been at the forefront in pushing junk gender science.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Intends To Direct NIH Funding To Research On The “Negative Effects” Of Gender-Affirming Care Such As Puberty Blockers. “Instead, it should fund studies into the short-term and long-term negative effects of crosssex interventions, including ‘affirmation,’ puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgeries, and the likelihood of desistence if young people are given counseling that does not include medical or social interventions.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Puberty Blockers Are A Treatment That Delays The Onset Of Puberty. “Puberty blockers can be used to delay the changes of puberty in transgender and gender-diverse youth who have started puberty.” [Mayo Clinic, [6/14/23](#)]

- **Puberty Blockers Have Significant Benefits For Youth Who Need Them.** “For transgender and gender-diverse youth who have gender dysphoria, delaying puberty might: Improve mental well-being. Ease depression and anxiety. Improve social interactions with others. Lower the need for future surgeries. Ease thoughts or actions of self-harm.” [Mayo Clinic, [6/14/23](#)]

American Academy Of Pediatrics: We And Other Medical Associations Support Gender-Affirming Care For Adolescents. “The AAP and other major medical organizations — including the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the World Health Organization — support giving transgender adolescents access to the health care they need.” [American Academy of Pediatrics, [8/4/23](#)]

Severino Intends To Allow Medicare And Medicaid Providers To Deny Gender-Affirming Surgeries.

Severino Would Restore Regulations Allowing Medical Providers To Participate In Federal Programs While Denying Gender-Affirming Surgeries. “Finally, HHS needs to restore and enhance conscience protection regulations that allow medical practitioners to participate in federal health care programs without being compelled to provide sex changes or similar services.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

In October 2023, Severino Retweeted A Quote From A Psychiatrist Saying “Gender-Affirming Care Is Dangerous.”



[Twitter, [10/30/23](#)]

Severino Advocated Repealing The Inflation Reduction Act’s Reform Of Medicare Drug Price Negotiations.

Medicare Part D Is A Program That Helps Medicare Beneficiaries Pay For Prescription Drugs. “Medicare Part D is a voluntary outpatient prescription drug benefit for people with Medicare provided through private plans that contract with the federal government.” [KFF Health News, [10/17/23](#)]

The Inflation Reduction Act Required HHS To Negotiate Prices For Some Drugs Covered Under Medicare Part D. “The Inflation Reduction Act amends the non-interference clause by adding an exception that requires the Secretary of HHS to negotiate prices with drug companies for a small number of single-source brand-name drugs or biologics without generic or biosimilar competitors that are covered under Medicare Part D (starting in 2026) and Part B (starting in 2028).” [KFF Health News, [1/24/23](#)]

- **The Congressional Budget Office Estimated That Negotiating Drug Prices Will Save Nearly \$100 Billion Over 10 Years.** “CBO estimates \$98.5 billion in Medicare savings over 10 years (2022-2031) from the drug negotiation provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act.” [KFF Health News, [1/24/23](#)]

Severino Argued For Repealing The Drug Price Negotiation Program. “The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) created a drug price negotiation program in Medicare that replaced the existing private-sector negotiations in

Part D with government price controls for prescription drugs. These government price controls will limit access to medications and reduce patient access to new medication. This “negotiation” program should be repealed, and reforms in Part D that will have meaningful impact for seniors should be pursued.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Called For Restricting Medicaid Benefits By Adding Work Requirements And Benefits Caps.

Severino Advocated Work Requirements For Medicaid Benefits. “Add work requirements and match Medicaid benefits to beneficiary needs.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Argued For Caps Or Time Limits On Medicaid Benefits. “CMS should also: [...] Add targeted time limits or lifetime caps on benefits to disincentivize permanent dependence.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Intends To “Revisit” The No Surprises Act, Which Eliminated Surprise Medical Bills.

The No Surprises Act Addressed “Gaps In Insurance Coverage” That Resulted In Patients Receiving Unexpected Bills. “On Dec. 27, 2020, the No Surprises Act (NSA) was signed into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. These provisions were intended to address unexpected gaps in insurance coverage that result in “surprise medical bills” when patients unknowingly obtain medical services from physicians and other providers outside their health insurance network.” [American Medical Association, accessed [2/26/24](#)]

Severino Would “Revisit” The No Surprises Act. “Revisit the No Surprises Act on surprise medical billing.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Under Severino, HHS Would Propose Regulations To Prohibit Abortion Providers, Including Planned Parenthood, From Receiving Medicaid Funds For Non-Abortion Procedures.

Severino Clarified That HHS Funds, Including Medicaid Funds, Already Cannot Pay For Abortions. “The Hyde Amendment has long prohibited the use of HHS funds for elective abortions [...] .” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Would Direct HHS To Propose New Regulations “To Disqualify Providers Of Elective Abortion From The Medicaid Program.” “Policymakers should end taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood and all other abortion providers and redirect funding to health centers that provide real health care for women. The bulk of federal funding for Planned Parenthood comes through the Medicaid program. HHS should take two actions to limit this funding: 1. Issue guidance reemphasizing that states are free to defund Planned Parenthood in their state Medicaid plans. 2. Propose rulemaking to interpret the Medicaid statute to disqualify providers of elective abortion from the Medicaid program.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

Severino Would Eliminate The Head Start Program, Ending Free Preschool Education For The Children Of Low-Income Families.

Severino Called For The Elimination Of The Head Start Program. “Eliminate the Head Start program.” [Project 2025, [4/21/23](#)]

The Head Start Program Has Served More Than 38 Million Children Since 1965, Providing Children From Low-Income Families With Comprehensive Preschool Education. “The Head Start program began as an eight-week demonstration project designed to help break the cycle of poverty. It gave preschool children from families with low income a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional, and educational needs. A key tenet of the program established that it be culturally responsive to the communities served, and that the communities have an investment in its success through the contribution of volunteer hours and other donations as non-federal share...Head Start programs have served more than 38 million children since 1965, growing from an eight-week demonstration project to include full-day/full-year services and many program options.” [Office of Head Start, [6/30/23](#)]

Despite Possibly Being Considered A Top Candidate For HHS Director In A Potential Trump Administration, Severino Has Embraced Vaccine Lies And Misinformation, Retweeted Paranoid Right-Wing Conspiracy Theorists, Made Numerous Controversial Statements On Race And Gender And Made False Claims About The Weaponization Of The U.S. Justice System.

Despite His Status As A Leading Contender To Replace Xavier Becerra As Head Of HHS In A Potential Trump Administration, Severino Has Voiced Dangerous Ideas About Vaccines And Covid-19 Safety Including Retweeting A Heritage Post About The Effectiveness Of Ivermectin And Promoting The Debunked Conspiracy Movie “Died Suddenly.”

In May 2024, Severino Retweeted A Video Of Heritage Fellow Dr. David Gortler Making Claims About The Safety And Effectiveness Of Ivermectin On Patients With Covid-19, A Dangerous Opinion Outside The Medical Consensus.





[Twitter, [05/08/24](#)]

- **Despite Dr. Gortler’s Claims, Ivermectin Has Not Shown Effectiveness In Treating Coronavirus And Merck, The Drug’s Manufacturer, Has Even Said There Is “No Meaningful Evidence” That Ivermectin Works On Covid-19.** “Ivermectin, while approved by the Food and Drug Administration to

treat some parasitic infections, head lice and skin conditions such as rosacea, has not been shown to be effective against covid, according to several clinical trials — including ones published in the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of the American Medical Association. Merck, a pharmaceutical company that manufactures ivermectin, has said there is “no scientific basis” and “no meaningful evidence” to prescribe the drug for covid — a rare public step given that drug companies typically do not weigh in on “off-label” prescriptions by doctors. When asked about the promotion of ivermectin for the flu and RSV, Merck spokesperson Julie Cunningham said “our company statement remains the same: The use of ivermectin is not supported beyond the doses and populations indicated in the regulatory agency-approved prescribing information.” [Washington Post, [02/26/23](#)]

- **Severino Also Retweeted Another Heritage Post Which Included An Article By Dr. Gortler About Ivermectin’s Benefits In Treating Covid-19.**

Roger Severino reposted

 **Heritage Foundation** 
@Heritage

When you hear a pharmacist or physician (or academic dean) parrot the malignant trope of “Ivermectin doesn’t work for Covid” or that there is “no evidence” to support ivermectin’s use for Covid-19, send them Dr. Gortler’s review of a statistical analysis of both positive and negative studies, collectively showing a statistically significant improvement associated with ivermectin for 1) mortality, 2) ventilation, 3) ICU, 4) hospitalization, 5) recovery, 6) cases, and 7) viral clearance.

The only people who will refuse to read and give these findings due consideration, are those whose personal or political ideologies won’t allow them to objectively consider clinical/scientific data.

Dr. Gortler writes: “Science doesn’t care about consensus. In fact, many of the world’s biggest scientific advancements were the result of questioning an established consensus.”

[brownstone.org/articles/over...](#)

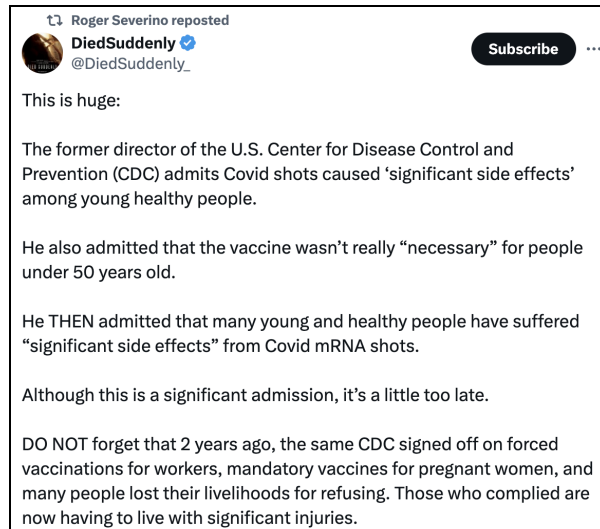


Send This Article to People Who Say “Ivermectin Doesn’t Work for Covid-19”

BY  DAVID GORTLER JUNE 10, 2024 **CENSORSHIP, PHARMA, PUBLIC HEALTH** 82 MINUTE READ

[Twitter, [06/11/24](#)]

In May 2024, Severino Retweeted An Account Connected To The 2022 Conspiracy Movie “Died Suddenly”, Which Argued That There Has Been A Drastic Increase In Sudden, Unexplained Deaths Among Healthy People Which They Attribute To After-Effects Of The Coronavirus Vaccine.

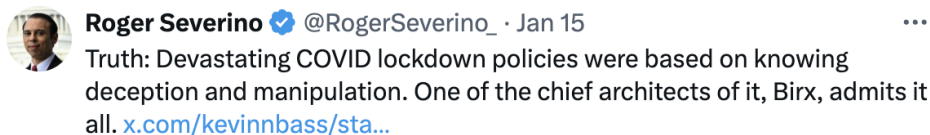


[Twitter, [05/18/24](#)]

However, The Movie Was Debunked For Its Poor Use Of Data And For Including People Who Died In Surfing Accidents... “An AP review of more than 100 tweets from the account in December and January found that claims about the cases being vaccine related were largely unsubstantiated and, in some cases, contradicted by public information. Some of the people featured died of genetic disorders, drug overdoses, flu complications or suicide. One died in a surfing accident.” [Associated Press, [02/04/23](#)]

- **...And Car Crashes Before The Pandemic Even Began...** “Some deaths exploited in the film predate the pandemic. California writer Dolores Cruz published an essay in 2022 about grieving for her son, who died in a car crash in 2017.” [Associated Press, [02/04/23](#)]
- **...As Well As People Who Were Never Vaccinated Or Who Did Not Actually Die.** “The 18-year-old unvaccinated bull rider who died from a rare disease. [...] “Died Suddenly” used a screenshot of the headline in the film, portraying his death as vaccine related.[...] Others featured in the film survived — but have been forced to watch clips of their medical emergencies misrepresented around the world. For Brazilian TV presenter Rafael Silva, who collapsed while reporting on air because of a congenital heart abnormality, online disinformation prompted a wave of harassment even before the “Died Suddenly” film used the footage.” [Associated Press, [02/04/23](#)]

Severino Also Referred To Public Health Decisions To Limit The Spread Of Covid-19 As “Devastating COVID Lockdown Policies” That Were Based On “Deception and Manipulation.”



This Post is from an account that no longer exists. [Learn more](#)

[Twitter, [01/15/24](#)]

In Project 2025, Severino Called Dr. Anthony Fauci An “Unaccountable Bureaucrat” Who Should “Never Again Have Such Broad, Unchecked Power To Issue Health Guidelines.” “Unaccountable bureaucrats like Anthony Fauci should never again have such broad, unchecked power to issue health

“guidelines” that will certainly be the basis for federal and state mandates. Never again should public health bureaucrats be allowed to hide information, ignore information, or mislead the public concerning the efficacy or dangers associated with any recommended health interventions because they believe it may lead to hesitancy on the part of the public. The only way to restore public trust in HHS as an institution capable of acting responsibly during a health emergency is through the best of disinfectants—light.” [Project 2025, Chapter 14: Department of Health & Human Services, p. 452, Accessed [08/01/24](#)]

When Asked About Dr. Anthony Fauci’s Handling Of Lockdowns And Restrictions During The Covid-19 Pandemic, Severino Disparaged Dr. Fauci, Claiming His Opinion Is “No More Valuable Than Any Random Person On The Street.” that’s when talking to scientists is a huge blind spot. They’re not qualified to speak on those moral issues. Frankly they’re not. So, when Fauci would speak about those things, about what are the proper limitations on freedom and things like that, his opinion is no more valuable than any random person on the street. In many ways, because what he said about those things, how he struck the balance was wrong on many of those issues. And the common person would come to a better moral judgment. But it’s the moral judgment, the “scientism” of elevating science almost to a religion and then in many times twisting to science to ideological ends.” [Twitter, [07/02/21](#)]

Severino Has Platformed And Retweeted Hard-Right Conspiracy Theorists Like Dr. Jordan Peterson, Jack Posobiec, Libs Of TikTok, Moms For Liberty And More.

In February 2024, Severino Retweeted Dr. Jordan Peterson And Blamed A Transgender Youth’s Suicide On The Obama Administration’s Decision To Implement “Trans “Affirming” Policies At The Youth’s School.



[Twitter, [02/08/24](#)]

Severino Also Reposted A Tweet By Peterson Praising The Family Policies Of Viktor Orban’s Authoritarian Government In Hungary.

↳ Roger Severino reposted

 **Dr Jordan B Peterson**  @jordanbpeterson

I have seen nothing elsewhere to match the depth of thought that the Hungarians have put into their family policies.

Women are exempted from income tax 25-100% lifetime as they have children.

This helps equalize the disproportionate burden they have to bear reproductively.

This has INCREASED their labour force participation.

The Hungarians have decreased abortion and divorce rates and stopped the decline in birth rates.


[@KatalinNovak_HU](#) is to be credited as well as the Orban administration

[@BalazsOrban_HU](#)

 **Balázs Orbán**  @BalazsOrban_HU · Jan 23

Thank you, @jordanbpeterson and @EvaVlaar for speaking out against the criticisms and false narrative about #Hungary! 🙏

We hope those who are so critical of our nation will also visit Hungary one day and see for themselves that it is not the country they thought it was; quite [Show more](#)



[Twitter, [01/23/24](#)]

Severino Has Also Posted Content Mocking And Pushing Misinformation About The Harris Campaign From Extreme Right Wing Conspiracy Theorist Jack Posobiec.

↳ Roger Severino reposted

 **Jack Poso**  @JackPosobiec · Jul 26

I told you they were promoting communism. I wrote a national bestseller about it. Now they're admitting it:

Kamala Harris explains Communism



[Twitter, [07/26/24](#)]

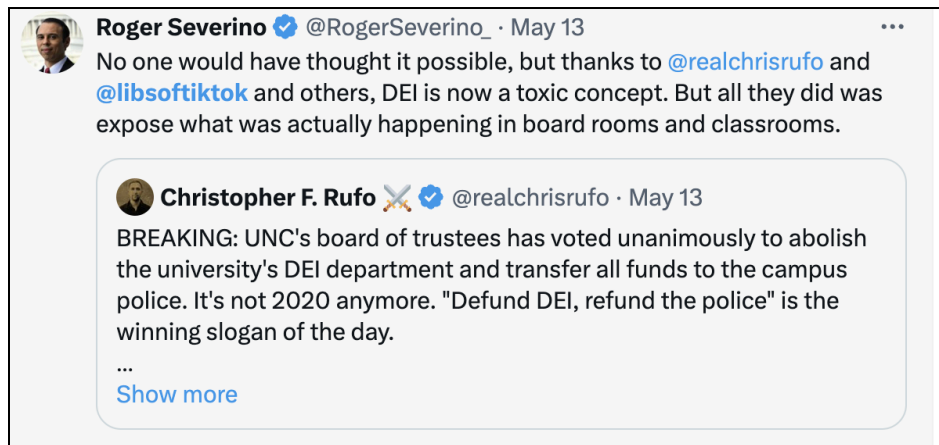


 **Roger Severino**  @RogerSeverino_ · Jul 22 ...
Does her website run on Android?



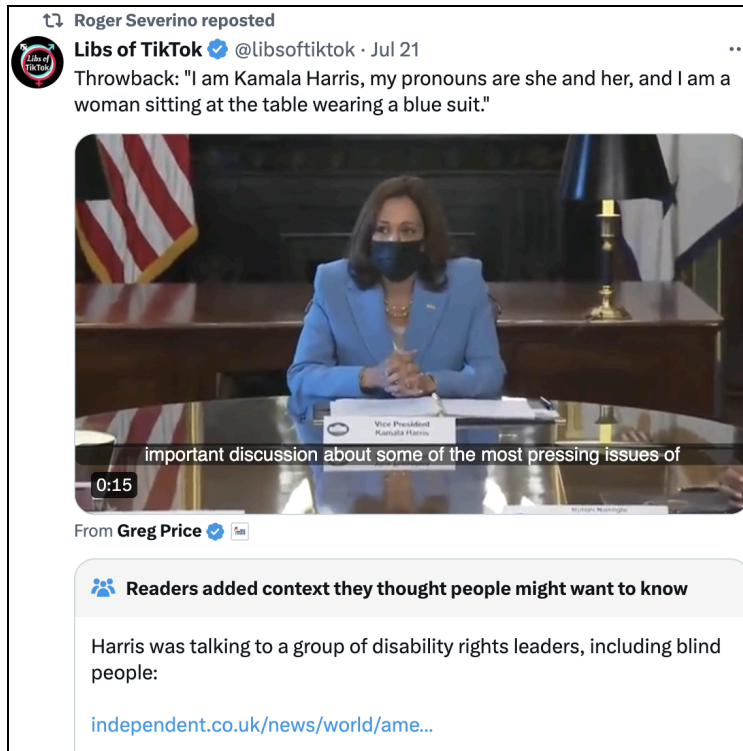
[Twitter, [07/22/24](#)]

Despite Having Previously Worked In The Office Of Civil Rights At HHS, Severino Called Diversity, Equity And Inclusion “A Toxic Concept” In A May 2024 Twitter Post And Praised The Radical Anti-Trans Account “Libs Of TikTok.”



[Twitter, [05/13/24](#)]

- **Libs Of TikTok Pushes A Toxic Brand Of Anti-LGBTQ Extremism And Has Extensive Reach In The Right-Wing Media And Influence Ecospheres.** “Libs of TikTok reposts a steady stream of TikTok videos and social media posts, primarily from LGBTQ+ people, often including incendiary framing designed to generate outrage. Videos shared from the account quickly find their way to the most influential names in right-wing media. The account has emerged as a powerful force on the Internet, shaping right-wing media, impacting anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and influencing millions by posting viral videos aimed at inciting outrage among the right. The anonymous account’s impact is deep and far-reaching. Its content is amplified by high-profile media figures, politicians and right-wing influencers. Its tweets reach millions, with influence spreading far beyond its more than 648,000 Twitter followers. Libs of TikTok has become an agenda-setter in right-wing online discourse, and the content it surfaces shows a direct correlation with the recent push in legislation and rhetoric directly targeting the LGBTQ+ community.” [Washington Post, [02/19/22](#)]
- **Severino Also Reposted A Tweet From Libs Of TikTok Mocking Kamala Harris’ Remarks In A Meeting With Disability Advocates, Which Also Included A Community Note From X, Formerly Known As Twitter.**



[Twitter, [07/21/24](#)]

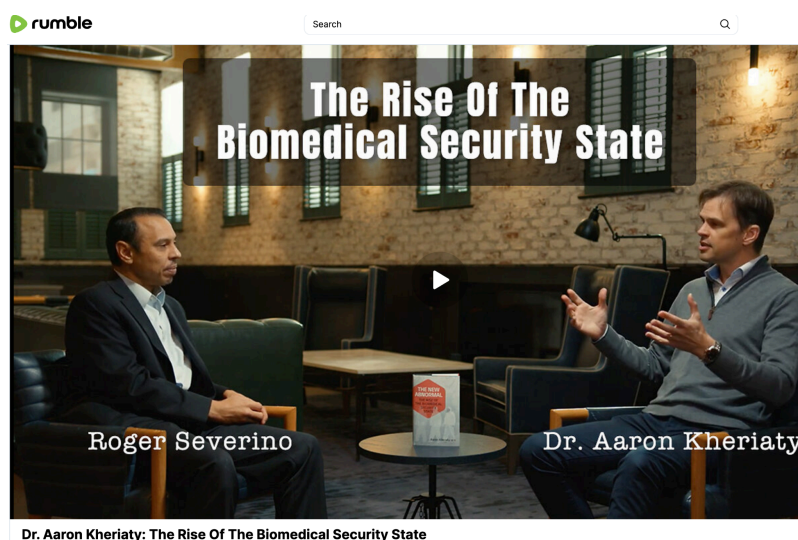
In July 2024, Severino Retweeted Posts About Moms For Liberty, Saying The Group “Gives You Legal Protection From The Biden/Harris Transgender Mandate In Your Kids’ Schools.”



[Twitter, [07/22/24](#)]

- Moms For Liberty Is A “Parents’ Rights Organization” That Has Gained Influence In Conservative Politics Despite A Number Of Scandals Including Use Of An Adolf Hitler Quote By One Of Its State Chapters.** “Moms for Liberty (M4L), a conservative “parents’ rights” organization, has emerged as a visible player in U.S. education politics. Since its founding in 2021, M4L has engaged in local school board politics and elections across the country. Along the way, M4L has attracted plenty of headlines. Most jarringly, an Indiana chapter of M4L was in the news after featuring an Adolf Hitler quote in its newsletter this past June. Despite the resulting negative press, Republican presidential candidates spoke at a national M4L conference just few a days later. M4L’s quick rise to prominence within the Republican Party has raised questions about how much influence it might have in American politics.” [Brookings.edu, Accessed [08/01/24](#)]

In December 2022, Severino Interviewed Dr. Aaron Kheriaty, A Professor Who Had Been Fired From University of California-Irvine For Refusing To Get Vaccinated Because He Argued He Had “Natural Immunity” From Covid 19. “A UC Irvine professor who claimed in a lawsuit to have a natural immunity to COVID-19 has been fired for refusing the vaccine. Dr. Aaron Kheriaty, a professor of psychiatry and human behavior at the medical school and director of the medical ethics program at UCI Health, wrote in [a blog post](#) that the University of California system removed him from his position on Dec. 17. [...] In August, Kheriaty sued the University of California Board of Regents and Michael V. Drake, the system’s president, alleging he should be exempt from the university’s vaccine mandate because he has a “natural immunity” to COVID-19 after being exposed to the virus. The doctor asserted that treating those who have coronavirus antibodies — by virtue of contracting it — differently from those who are fully vaccinated is unconstitutional. Research shows that coronavirus immunity wanes over time. [...] The physician has been a vocal opponent of the UC system’s vaccination mandate, maintaining that such requirements are medically unethical and infringe on personal liberties.” [Los Angeles Times, [01/02/22](#)]



[Rumble, [12/31/22](#)]

In July 2024, At Heritage Policy Fest At The Republican National Convention, Severino Echoed Controversial Comments About Black Families During The Jim Crow Era, When They Had Fewer Rights Than Other Americans.

In A Discussion On Cultural War Issues Like Marriage, Severino Said “Even During The Jim Crow Era, The Black Family Was Intact” And Blamed Problems Facing The Black Community On Great Society Programs Which He Claimed Punished Marriage. “Even during the Jim Crow era, the black family was intact. Even under grinding discrimination, the black family was intact. When the Great Society and the welfare programs punishing marriage came about, it devastated the black family community.” [YouTube, [07/15/24](#)]

- **Heritage Tweeted A Video Of It As Well:**



<https://x.com/Heritage/status/1813270990022971531>

- **This Controversial Statement Followed Similar Remarks Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) Made About The Jim Crow Era Just A Few Weeks Earlier.** “Florida Rep. Byron Donalds, a Republican who is seen as a potential running mate for Donald Trump, is defending himself amid Democratic criticism of comments he’d made Tuesday suggesting that Black families were “together” during the Jim Crow era of racial segregation. [...] “You see, during Jim Crow, the Black family was together,” Donalds said at the Tuesday event, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported. “During Jim Crow, more Black people were not just conservative — because Black people have always been conservative-minded — but more Black people voted conservatively,” he said. That ended, he suggested, due to a culture of dependence promoted by the federal government’s welfare system in the 1950s, including the establishment of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare — the federal agency now known as the Department of Health and Human Services — and civil rights efforts that followed under President Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1960s.” [CNN, [06/05/24](#)]

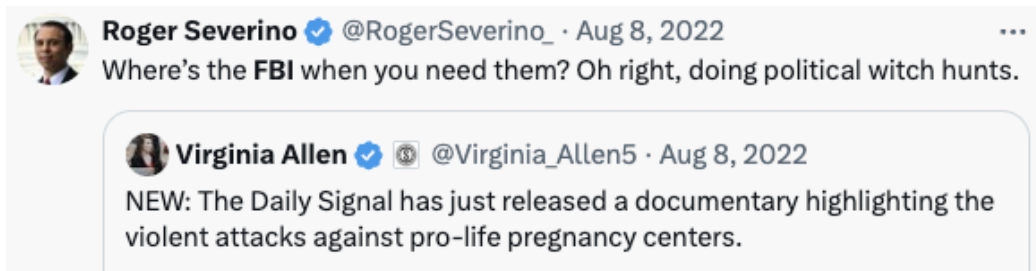
In An Interview On A Far-Right Rumble Show, Severino Made A Series Of False Claims About The Biden Administration’s “Weaponization” Of The American Justice System.

In A May 2024 Appearance On Rumble’s “True Story With Mike Slater” On Rumble, When Discussing Former President Donald Trump’s Recent Conviction, Severino Said That President Biden Had “Supercharged The Weaponization Of The Department Of Justice” Despite The Fact The Case Was Brought By State Prosecutors In New York State. “This is the weaponization of the justice system. Who’s in control here? The American people voted to actually have some semblance of law and order when they had President Trump. And now you have this rigged system where Biden has supercharged the weaponization of the Department of Justice. They went after him on the Russia hoax. They even did that fake impeachment proceedings. And now they’ve gone after him for allegedly defrauding banks when they’re were no victims, hitting him with \$450 million dollars in penalties when there are no victims, he paid all his bills. They went after him in Florida for documents, they went after him in Georgia for election issues, went after him in DC. This is unrelenting weaponization of our justice system.” [Rumble, [05/31/24](#)]

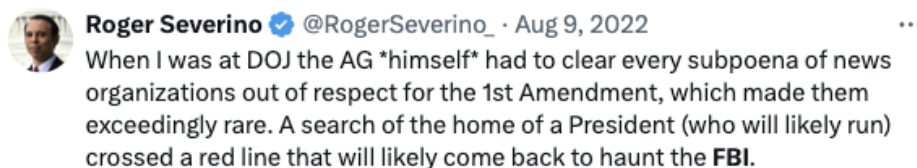
- Severino Repeated Trump Campaign And Right-Wing Talking Points About The Trial And Wrongfully Claimed It Was Politically Motivated, Calling It A “Sham” And A “Travesty”.**
 “It’s a shameful day in American history. Alvin Bragg said that the voice of the 12 jurors matter? It’s the voice of the people that matters. We’ve crossed a dangerous line and America is a different country today than we were yesterday. Now we’ve joined the ranks of shameful countries that are banana republics that try to jail their opponents instead of letting the people vote at the ballot box. This is a travesty. [...] You had a sham trial with a biased judge, with a biased jury which it appears to be, that the deck was stacked so hard against Trump that I think the American people are going to see right through this.” [Rumble, [05/31/24](#)]

Following The Raid Of Mar-A-Lago Relating To Former President Trump’s Classified Documents Case, Severino Made A Number Of Allegations About The FBI, Even Referring To “Political Witch Hunts”.

In August 2022, Severino Criticized The FBI For Issuing A Search Warrant Of President Trump’s Property Saying It “Crossed A Red Line” And A Political Witch Hunt”.



[Twitter, [08/08/22](#)]



[Twitter, [08/09/22](#)]

Severino Also Whined About Unfair Treatment Of Trump Compared To Joe Biden And Hillary Clinton, Alleging Trump Was Targeted To “Inflict Maximum Political Damage.”



Roger Severino ✓
@RogerSeverino_

...

An FBI raid over Presidential Records Act compliance is quite the horse for the DOJ to bet its institutional reputation on. Especially when Hillary admitted to setting up a private e-mail server for government comms and deleted it all, but got away scot free. 1/

1:30 AM · Aug 9, 2022



356



4.1K



13K



155



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...

Biden must immediately order DOJ to disclose the full warrant application and DOJ must within two weeks indict or publicly close the case. You don't raid a president's home to go fishing for evidence, but only to get the final pieces needed to prosecute. /2

64

595

2.8K



Roger Severino ✓ @RogerSeverino_ · Aug 9, 2022

...

But given this DOJ's abominable track record, it will likely announce nothing for the next year and 1/2 (but will selectively leak) and keep a cloud over Trump that will inflict maximum political damage. /3

[Twitter, [08/09/22](#)]

[###]