April 23, 2020

**Surveillance Expands in COVID-19 Crisis**

Congress passed the CARES Act and gave $500 million to build a “public health surveillance and analytics infrastructure.” The words tell the story. Public health means government, surveillance means tracking, analytics means digging through our data, and infrastructure means a national system.

There was no debate and little time to read the bill before the vote so it was an unpleasant surprise. Now it’ll be up to states to write laws that stop the federal system from scooping up the data of patients.

Surveillance is advancing at every turn. From talk of a national coronavirus surveillance system, to comments on issuing Americans certificates of immunity, to Google and Apple working together to track coronavirus and conduct contact tracing, privacy rights are under attack. People under surveillance are not free.


“Fauci: Coronavirus Immunity Cards for Americans are “being discussed,”” Quint Forgey, Politico, April 10, 2020: [https://politico.com/3aftLF1](https://politico.com/3aftLF1)

“Apple and Google want your phone to become a coronavirus tracking device. Can it really work?” Brian Fung, CNN, April 15, 2020: [https://cnn.it/3cuu9ku](https://cnn.it/3cuu9ku)