



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 8, 2019

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

On behalf of the Alliance for Biosecurity and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, we support the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, and urge the House to pass this bipartisan legislation that would reauthorize the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). This bill is central to protecting American citizens, organizations, and communities against natural and man-made biosecurity hazards.

The legislation would authorize crucial funding for the Project BioShield Special Reserve Fund and Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). However, we urge policymakers to account for inflation to ensure that future spending levels adequately support the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) Strategy and implementation Plan, the BARDA Strategic Plan, and related efforts.

The bill would establish several important programs within BARDA, especially a Pandemic Influenza Program to support research and development activities to enhance responses to pandemic influenza and an Emerging Infectious Disease Program to monitor and address infectious diseases that could cause a deadly pandemic. Both programs would be funded at \$250 million per year through FY 2023.

The bill would also create new and sustainable market-based incentives to advance cutting-edge biomedical research. Our groups support developing strategic partnerships between BARDA and the business community to mitigate threats that could pose a significant risk to U.S. health and safety.

Reauthorizing PAHPA would also help ensure the sustainability of the medical countermeasures enterprise by transferring the authority that governs the procurement of medical countermeasures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

The legislation would codify ASPR's role in coordinating Strategic National Stockpile operations with CDC. We also believe that such teamwork would make the U.S. better equipped to tackle public health emergencies and natural disasters.

We urge the full House to swiftly consider and pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jack Kingston in blue ink.

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Secretariat
Alliance for Biosecurity

Handwritten signature of Neil L. Bradley in blue ink.

Neil L. Bradley
Executive Vice President and
Chief Policy Officer
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

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The Alliance for Biosecurity is a coalition of biopharmaceutical companies and laboratory/academic partners that promotes a strong public-private partnership to ensure that medical countermeasures are available to protect public health and enhance national health security. The Alliance advocates for public policies and funding to support the rapid development, production, stockpiling, and distribution of critically needed medical countermeasures. Learn more at www.allianceforbiosecurity.com.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses and organizations of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations. The Chamber is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system.