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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Secretary of HHS, biosecurity officials, Members of Congress, and industry leaders convene at Congressional Biodefense Caucus event

Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar addressed Members of Congress, staff, Administration officials, and representatives from the Alliance for Biosecurity's member companies on Capitol Hill Wednesday evening.

The discussion, hosted by the Congressional Biodefense Caucus in coordination with the Alliance for Biosecurity, centered around the National Biodefense Strategy and the Administration's priorities.

Secretary Azar mentioned his previous experience as a Deputy Secretary at HHS and his hand in drafting the first 2002 Bioterrorism Act, a precursor to the creation of the Office of the Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

"It was a very productive and insightful discussion," said former Congressman Jack Kingston, who now serves as Secretariat for the Alliance for Biosecurity. "Secretary Azar reinforced the need for America to be prepared whether for pandemics or potential chemical or biological attacks. With Secretary Azar, ASPR Bob Kadlec, and Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) Director Rick Bright, we are confident in the Administration's ability to work with Congress to maximize public-private partnerships and protect all Americans."

The ASPR, Dr. Bob Kadlec, and BARDA Director, Dr. Rick Bright, were also in attendance. The two biosecurity leaders discussed the Administration's renewed focus on biosecurity as evidenced by the National Biodefense Strategy, which was unveiled last September.

All guest speakers recognized the Alliance for Biosecurity as a thought leader composed of experts in the national health security field. Caucus Co-Chairs, Congresswomen Susan W. Brooks (R-IN) and Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA) applauded the Alliance's continued work to push the Pandemic All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) across the finish line.

The Alliance for Biosecurity urges Congress to pass PAHPA before the end of the year in an effort to provide Secretary Azar and others with the resources and tools needed to combat biosecurity threats and strengthen the public-private partnerships that make medical countermeasures possible.

Photos of November 28th, 2018, Congressional Biodefense Caucus discussion:



Alliance for Biosecurity Co-Chair Chris Frech, HHS Secretary Alex Azar, Biodefense Caucus Co-Chair Congresswoman Susan W. Brooks, and Alliance Co-Chair Brent MacGregor at Nov. 28th Biodefense Caucus discussion.



Congressional Biodefense Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA) and Rep. Susan W. Brooks (R-IN) hear from Alliance for Biosecurity Secretariat Jack Kingston at Nov. 28th Caucus discussion.



HHS Secretary Alex Azar addresses Congressional Biodefense Caucus on Nov 28th.



Alliance for Biosecurity Co-Chair Chris Frech talks with HHS Secretary Alex Azar at Nov. 28th Biodefense Caucus discussion.

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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 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 online at AllianceForBiosecurity.com and by following [@AllianceCBRN](https://twitter.com/AllianceCBRN) on Twitter.