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**ALLIANCE FOR BIOSECURITY SUPPORTS RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
BLUE RIBBON STUDY PANEL ON BIODEFENSE**

*Dedicated leadership, consistent funding and innovative policy changes
are required to address growing biosecurity threats*

The Alliance for Biosecurity applauds the release of the [Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense's report](#) on the state of our nation's biosecurity. The "National Blueprint for Biodefense" provides specific near, mid, and long term recommendations for improving U.S. preparedness for bioterrorism, biological warfare, and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

"This prestigious group of former government leaders undertook a thoughtful analysis of the biological threats facing our nation – both man made and naturally emerging," said Elizabeth Posillico, President and CEO of Elusys Therapeutics, and Co-Chair of the Alliance for Biosecurity. "Like several government commissions convened since 2001, the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense concluded that biothreats are very real and in order to move beyond the status quo, the U.S. must prioritize, fund, and lead a coordinated, innovative strategy commensurate with the threat. Alliance for Biosecurity member companies remain dedicated to developing and manufacturing the medical countermeasures needed to combat these threats."

As the recent Ebola outbreak demonstrated, medical countermeasures – including vaccines, medicines, and diagnostics – are integral components of preparedness for biosecurity threats. The National Blueprint for Biodefense highlights the important role of these lifesaving products and calls for robust government funding of the programs that support public-private partnerships to develop, manufacture, and stockpile them before a threat materializes.

In particular, significant underfunding of the BioShield Special Reserve Fund and Pandemic Influenza preparedness at the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), which are the primary government funding sources available for advanced development and procurement of medical countermeasures, leaves the country more vulnerable.

The Alliance for Biosecurity believes that the following reforms are needed in order to improve U.S. biosecurity by ensuring medical countermeasures are available for known and emerging threats.

- Congress must adequately fund the development, manufacturing, and procurement of medical countermeasures on a sustained basis, including \$763 million in fiscal year 2016 for the BioShield Special Reserve Fund (SRF) - current SRF funding is \$255 million; and \$400 million to support the BARDA pandemic influenza program in fiscal year 2016 – current funding is \$72 million.
- Congress should create new incentives to encourage private sector partners to continue investing in medical countermeasures development, since the major incentive for biopharmaceutical companies in biodefense – the "guaranteed market" illustrated by the ten year SRF – is effectively gone.



- The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense should provide greater transparency for medical countermeasures requirements and priorities, including projected quantities and target product characteristics for the Strategic National Stockpile.
- The U.S. Government should encourage international stockpiling by helping facilitate regulatory pathways and joint purchasing for international procurement of medical countermeasures.

The world will inevitably face another natural or man-made biological threat, and as the panel's report shows, there are serious gaps in U.S. preparedness to respond. If we wait to develop a vaccine or therapy after a threat has appeared, then it is too late. Taking concrete actions and making investments now will help to avert another crisis. The recommendations in this report offer a place to start.

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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.

For more information, visit the Alliance for Biosecurity website at www.allianceforbiosecurity.org.

For more information about the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense and to read the report, visit www.biodefensestudy.org.