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Alliance for Biosecurity Supports New Legislation to Strengthen Biodefense Measures for Public Health Emergencies

Increasing Medical Countermeasure Development Ensures Preparedness for Biological Threats

The Alliance for Biosecurity applauds Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Bob Casey (D-PA) for introducing the Medical Countermeasure Innovation Act of 2015. This bill strengthens our defenses against biological threats and preparedness for future public health emergencies. The bill addresses aspects of the countermeasure development process that can most affect our ability to respond: development of utilization guidelines to inform how medical countermeasures would be used, procurement of products for the Strategic National Stockpile, and priority review for treatments that address present national security threats.

"The level of cooperation between government entities and private sector partners has improved over the last decade, and our level of preparedness has increased. But as new challenges arise, we must move beyond the status quo to be ready," said Paul Chaplin, President & CEO of Bavarian Nordic and Alliance for Biosecurity Co-Chair. "The Alliance for Biosecurity believes the legislation introduced by Senators Richard Burr and Bob Casey will help the country move beyond the current status by preparing for emerging threats as well as the existing threats the nation already faces. We commend the Senators for introducing the Medical Countermeasure Innovation Act of 2015."

Medical countermeasures are essential to our nation's health and security, so incentives must be in place to attract private investment in product development and the government contracting process must be efficient. The Medical Countermeasure Innovation Act of 2015 provides an important new incentive for companies to develop medical countermeasures to address current and emerging threats. It also changes reporting requirements, so that Congress knows when the BioShield Special Reserve Fund is low and knows how that will impact medical countermeasure priorities. These reforms will contribute to greater public health security and improve our preparedness against biological threats.

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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.

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