ALLIANCE FOR BIOSECURITY HONORS SENATOR WHITEHOUSE WITH BIOSECURITY CHAMPION AWARD

The Alliance for Biosecurity is proud to present Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) with the Congressional Biosecurity Champion Award. The award acknowledges the leadership and actions taken by members of Congress to improve U.S. national health security and preparedness for biological threats.

"A critical part of responding to health security threats – whether naturally occurring or manmade – is having vaccines and medicines available quickly to protect public health and prevent an outbreak from becoming a pandemic," said Chris Frech, Senior Vice President, Global Government Affairs, Emergent BioSolutions and Co-Chair of the Alliance for Biosecurity. "Public private partnerships funded through BARDA and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund are our best chance of success and we thank Senator Whitehouse for his leadership in securing funding for these national security programs at the Department of Health and Human Services. The use of chemical weapons in Syria and the Zika and Ebola outbreaks demonstrate the need for vigilant preparedness efforts."

Americans are concerned about biosecurity risks and a survey conducted by the Alliance for Biosecurity, the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense and Trust for America's Health illustrates support for an increase in funding for preventative measures against biological, chemical, and radiological threats. Senator Whitehouse's commitment to improving the development of new vaccines and medicines for national health threats directly addresses the American people's concerns.

In presenting this award to Senator Whitehouse, the Alliance recognizes his sustained advocacy for increased funding for medical countermeasures and support for the medical countermeasure provisions in the 21st Century Cures Act. "Strengthening America's biosecurity takes the public and private sectors working closely together. That's why I've been fighting to fully and consistently fund the federal government's programs to identify bio threats and develop countermeasures," said Whitehouse. "I am proud to receive this award and will continue my work to protect the American people."

Senator Whitehouse is one of eight members to receive the 2017 Congressional Biosecurity Champion Award. The other honorees include Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), Senator Steve Daines (R-MT), Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK), Congressman Charlie Dent (R-PA), Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD). In keeping with the innovative nature of the work of the members of the Alliance, the award is a unique one-of-a-kind design produced by a 3D printer.

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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.