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Contact: Maureen Donahue Hardwick
(+1) 202-230-5133
www.allianceforbiosecurity.org

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL INCREASES FUNDING FOR BIOSECURITY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS

The Alliance for Biosecurity applauds the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agencies for its commitment to protecting Americans from naturally occurring and deliberate biosecurity threats by prioritizing funding for essential medical countermeasure programs. The Alliance is pleased the subcommittee recommended increased funding in their draft Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations bill for critical preparedness programs, including the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), BioShield Special Reserve Fund (SRF), and the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). The Alliance is also encouraged by the development of a new Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

At the same time, however, the subcommittee's recommendation for pandemic influenza funding falls below the President's request, and the Alliance looks forward to ongoing discussions on how best to address funding shortfalls for this critical program for one of the most serious national security threats.

"With the Zika virus top of mind for many Americans as they enjoy the summer weather, the House showed its commitment to procuring the necessary medical countermeasures to ensure we are prepared for the next threat that arises, whether it's natural or manmade," said Chris Frech, Senior Vice President, Global Government Affairs of Emergent BioSolutions and Alliance Co-Chair. "While we are disappointed that more could not be provided for pandemic influenza the Alliance for Biosecurity commends the House Appropriations subcommittee for their assurance that they will continue to bolster our nation's biosecurity preparedness programs."

A proactive strategy to protect our nation's biosecurity is the most effective and practical way to secure the public health. Medical countermeasures regularly require years of development and testing before they can be used during an outbreak. The Alliance commends the subcommittee for providing increased funding for many of these important programs and looks forward to ongoing discussions as the bill moves through the legislative process.

The House bill includes the following funding levels:

- BARDA (\$520 million, an increase of \$10 million above FY 2016)
- BioShield SRF (\$600 million, an increase of \$90 million above FY 2016)
- SNS (\$610 million, an increase of \$35 million above FY 2016)
- Pandemic Influenza (\$72 million, level funding with FY 2016)
- CDC Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund (new funding of \$300 million)

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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.