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

ALLIANCE FOR BIOSECURITY COMMENDS CONGRESS FOR PASSAGE OF 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

LEGISLATION WILL IMPROVE NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

The Alliance for Biosecurity commends Congress for its passage of the 21st Century Cures Act, which contains key provisions that will promote greater innovation and efficiency in the development of medical countermeasure (MCM), including vaccines and treatments necessary to protect America's national security and promote public health preparedness for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats.

A combined and concerted effort among government agencies and biopharmaceutical companies has greatly improved our preparedness capabilities over the last decade, but medical countermeasure programs must evolve to continue functioning efficiently. By taking steps to make the MCM contracting process more transparent, predictable, and flexible, Subtitle H of the 21st Century Cures Act on Medical Countermeasures Innovation will address challenges that have caused government-funded MCM projects to progress at a slower pace than needed.

The Medical Countermeasures Innovation subtitle also encourages private sector development of MCMs by creating a Priority Review Voucher program for the national security threats identified by the Department of Homeland Security. This model has proved successful in encouraging the development of vaccines and therapeutics for neglected tropical diseases and rare pediatric diseases.

The Alliance for Biosecurity applauds Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN), Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) for their leadership in passing these critical provisions. Passage of the 21st Century Cures Act is an important milestone in ensuring that necessary medical products are developed, approved, and stockpiled to protect the American public in a disease outbreak or an intentional CBRN attack.

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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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