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ALLIANCE FOR BIOSECURITY HONORS CONGRESSMAN COLE WITH BIOSECURITY CHAMPION AWARD

The Alliance for Biosecurity is proud to present Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) 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 Congressman Cole 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. Congressman Cole’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 Congressman Cole, the Alliance recognizes his vocal support of programs critical to protecting the American people from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats and his leadership on the LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee, which has been instrumental in increasing funding for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund (SRF). Congressman Cole stated, “Our largest threats to our nation’s safety do not solely originate from terrorism, but also from biological sources. A pandemic can cause more harm and be more deadly. It’s critical for our biomedical research institutes to be at the forefront of prevention and protection, and remain leaders in innovative medical developments. I am honored to receive the Congressional Biosecurity Champion Award, and I will continue to advocate for biomedical priorities and the protection of our nation’s health.”

Congressman Cole 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), Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), 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.

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