

Alliance for Biosecurity

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SENATE APPROPRIATIONS BILL TAKES STEPS TO SECURE BIOSECURITY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS

The Alliance for Biosecurity praises the Senate Labor, Health & Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee's dedication to the development and procurement of vaccines and medicines to protect Americans from biosecurity threats like Ebola, smallpox and pandemic influenza. Today, the subcommittee recommended sustained funding for some essential medical countermeasures programs at the Department of Health and Human Services in their draft FY 2017 Appropriations bill.

"At a time when Americans are clearly concerned about infectious disease outbreaks like Zika and Ebola, and the world has seen terrorist attacks in major European cities, the Senate took an important step forward to ensure health care professionals have the tools they need to rapidly respond to a range of intentional threats," said Chris Frech, Senior Vice President, Global Government Affairs of Emergent BioSolutions and Alliance Co-Chair. "The Alliance for Biosecurity commends the Senate Appropriations subcommittee for their commitment to the public-private partnerships that are the backbone of our biosecurity preparedness programs."

As the recent Ebola and Zika outbreaks have shown, a reactive approach to biosecurity is not an effective strategy; we must have rapid response capabilities in place in advance of an outbreak, attack or accident. Availability of the medical countermeasures needed to save lives often requires years of product development and establishment of manufacturing capabilities. Today, the subcommittee prioritized funding for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), the BioShield Special Reserve Fund (SRF) and the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) in the annual appropriations bill. However, we are disappointed with the persistent lack of commitment to preparedness for pandemic influenza, one of the most serious national security threats we face.

The Senate bill includes the following funding levels:

- BARDA (\$512 million, same as FY 2016)
- BioShield SRF (\$510 million, same as FY 2016)
- SNS (\$575 million, same as FY 2016)
- Pandemic Influenza (\$72 million, same as FY 2016)

For information on the biosecurity public opinion survey conducted by the Alliance, please visit:

<http://www.allianceforbiosecurity.org/#!biosecurity-public-opinion-poll/q0qny>

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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.