



Alliance for Biosecurity Releases Statement on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing: Examining the U.S. Public Health Response to the Ebola Outbreak

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Paul Chaplin, President & CEO of Bavarian Nordic and Alliance for Biosecurity Co-Chair released the following statement:

“The Alliance for Biosecurity commends the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations for holding an important hearing on the United States’ response to the Ebola outbreak.

No safe, effective vaccine or therapeutic currently exists to prevent or treat Ebola. This reality presents a significant challenge to managing and ultimately stemming this outbreak. Having available medical products would likely have been a “game changer” for the current outbreak. A reliable vaccine to protect health care workers treating sick patients and responders going into affected areas would have a dramatic, positive impact on the ability to control the epidemic quickly and effectively. An approved therapeutic drug would ensure patients infected with Ebola have a better chance of survival.

This situation demonstrates the critical need to invest in the advanced research, development, and stockpiling of vaccines, drugs, and other medicines to protect the American public from biological threats and assist the international community. Congress must fully fund the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), which partners with the private sector to accomplish this critical goal.

The Alliance will continue to advocate for BARDA to have sufficient funds to respond to the Ebola outbreak and, in parallel, sustain their ongoing efforts to prepare for other extremely dangerous diseases including smallpox, anthrax, and pandemic influenza. It is essential that our U.S. government provides robust funding so that our nation can simultaneously prepare and respond to disease threats.”

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The Alliance for Biosecurity, formed in 2005 to improve the nation's biosecurity through the development of medical countermeasures to address bioterrorism and natural pandemic threats, supports a long-term national security vision for achieving and sustaining defenses against a range of threats that present national security challenges.

For more information, visit the Alliance for Biosecurity website at www.allianceforbiosecurity.org.

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