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**PRESS RELEASE: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE ENTERPRISE (PHEMCE)**

**February 28 2014**

The Alliance for Biosecurity commends the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Subcommittee for highlighting the Department of Health and Human Service's work to protect the American public from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats and holding the hearing, "Oversight Hearing - Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise" on Thursday, February 27th.

Over the past decade, the United States government has successfully partnered with companies engaged in the research and development of medical countermeasures (MCMs) to respond to intentional and naturally occurring biological threats. Progress has been achieved, but the work is far from done and must continue uninterrupted. Congress recognized this reality when it reauthorized the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act during 2013. This law reauthorized the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), the Project BioShield Special Reserve Fund, Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants, the Hospital Preparedness Program, funding for pandemic influenza, and other activities.

Committee Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro facilitated a robust discussion on the issues and acknowledged the need for the government to invest in the PHEMCE in order to promote nimble and effective responses to both intentional and naturally-emerging disease threats.

During the hearing, Dr. Robin Robinson, Director of BARDA, noted that Congress authorized \$2.8 billion over the next five years and stated, "our estimates are that we'll need every single penny of that and maybe a little bit more" to deliver 12 new products to the Strategic National Stockpile. This is an important message for the MCM community to hear and enhanced transparency on the threats and government needs will promote a stronger public-private partnership.

"The impact of an intentional chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attack or a naturally occurring disease epidemic, such as another influenza pandemic, poses a clear danger to the national security of the United States. Alliance members have engaged in successful public private partnerships with the U.S. government to develop the vaccines and drugs needed to protect Americans. The Alliance applauds the House Appropriations Committee's attention to the need for sustained and dedicated funding for the development of these national security products." *Elizabeth Posillico, Alliance for Biosecurity Co-Chair, and CEO, Elusys Therapeutics.*

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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](http://www.allianceforbiosecurity.org).

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