



**PRESS RELEASE: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON EBOLA**

September 17, 2014

The Alliance for Biosecurity commends the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and the Appropriations Committee for holding the hearing, "Ebola in West Africa: A Global Challenge and Public Health Threat" on Tuesday, September 16th, to bring attention to this serious global security issue and the resources required to fight it.

The Member statements and witness testimony demonstrated the critical need to sustain initiatives to research, develop, and stockpile vaccines and other medicines to protect the American public and global community from Ebola and other natural and man-made chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

**Senator Harkin, Chairman of the HELP Committee and the LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee stated:**

"Ebola is just one example of a threat from infectious disease. Others include avian flu and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS. In today's globalized system of air travel and trade, health threats easily crisscross the planet. Last year, the bipartisan Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA) was signed into law. This law...advances national health security by strengthening CDC's public health preparedness and response capabilities and ensuring the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) has the authority it needs to support the development of critical treatments and vaccines."

**Deputy Assistant Secretary and BARDA Director Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Robinson testified:**

"We are using all of our capabilities to address the Ebola epidemic in Africa, and have identified crucial additional steps that can be supported through the Fiscal Year 2015 Continuing Resolution. BARDA's investments today into Ebola medical countermeasures will address not only the current epidemic and any future Ebola outbreaks, but they will also help the United States to become better prepared for bioterrorism."

"The impact of an intentional chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attack or a naturally occurring disease epidemic, such as Ebola, poses a clear danger to the national security of our global community and 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 will continue to advocate for BARDA to have sufficient funds to handle an enhanced focus on Ebola in addition to BARDA's existing responsibilities in biodefense and preparedness" *said Elizabeth Posillico, President and CEO of Elusys Therapeutics, Inc. and Alliance for Biosecurity Co-Chair.*

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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).

MEMBERS: Bavarian Nordic ▪ CUBRC, Inc. ▪ Elusys Therapeutics ▪ Emergent BioSolutions ▪ Meridian Medical Technologies, Inc., a Pfizer Company ▪ Nanotherapeutics, Inc. ▪ Neumedicines, Inc. ▪ Novartis Vaccines ▪ PharmAthene ▪ Siga Technologies | ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Battelle Memorial Institute ▪ Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute ▪ Texas A&M University System ▪ University of Texas Medical Branch