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**ALLIANCE FOR BIOSECURITY COMMENDS SENATE COMMITMENT
TO STRENGTHENING BIOSECURITY PREPAREDNESS**

The Alliance for Biosecurity commends the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee for advancing legislation to improve U.S. preparedness for biosecurity threats. Yesterday, the Committee approved S. 2055, the Medical Countermeasure Innovation Act, which aims to accelerate the development of new medicines and vaccines to protect Americans from potential deliberate biological threats, like smallpox and anthrax, and naturally emerging disease threats, like Ebola and pandemic flu.

“We applaud Senators Burr and Casey for their continued leadership in improving our nation’s preparedness for biological threats,” said Chris Frech, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Biosecurity and Senior Vice President of Global Government Affairs at Emergent BioSolutions. “This legislation includes a number of common sense provisions that could speed up the development of the vaccines and therapeutics to address the many threats identified by the government to protect the public here at home and our military abroad. The bill’s new private sector incentives and streamlined contracting process can help us to stay ahead of the curve when the next biological threat arrives – whether naturally occurring or man-made.”

Medical countermeasures are essential to our nation’s health and security, so incentives must be in place to attract private investment in product development, and the government contracting process must be efficient, predictable and flexible. The reforms in S. 2055, which have been endorsed by the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense, will contribute to greater national health security, helping the country to be better prepared for the next threat to cross our border or hit our shores. The Alliance for Biosecurity looks forward to working with the full Senate to pass this crucial legislation.

Last year, the Alliance for Biosecurity recognized Senators Burr and Casey for their steadfast leadership and action in advocating for improvements to national health security by presenting both Senators with the Alliance’s inaugural Congressional Biosecurity Champion Award.

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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.