



Alliance for Biosecurity Releases Statement on the House Committee on Homeland Security Field Hearing: “Ebola in the Homeland: The Importance of Effective International, Federal, State and Local Coordination”

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Elizabeth Posillico, President and CEO of Elusys Therapeutics, Inc., and Alliance for Biosecurity Co-Chair released the following statement:

“The Alliance for Biosecurity commends the House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee for holding an important hearing on the importance of federal and local coordination to respond to Ebola. The recent Ebola outbreak is an issue of national security and demonstrates the critical need to sustain initiatives to research, develop, and stockpile vaccines, drugs, and other medicines to protect the American public and deter bioterror threats. It is critical that emergency programs for Ebola MCMs are not funded at the expense of preparing for other dangerous threats.

Alliance members are dedicated to being strong partners in preparing for these threats by developing the vaccines and drugs needed to protect Americans. A robust public–private partnership is essential for national preparedness for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats, including Ebola.

The numerous government stakeholders involved in the medical countermeasure enterprise must coordinate effectively to eliminate any barriers that may slow or complicate development and distribution of vaccines and therapeutics. Congress and the White House must provide transparent, substantial, and sustained funding for development and procurement of drugs and vaccines against these threats, including smallpox, anthrax, and pandemic influenza and to maintain the progress already achieved. We have seen the significant stress placed on the public, local health systems and victims’ families with only a handful of Ebola patients reaching our shores. The availability of just one vaccine or therapeutic would have had a positive impact.”

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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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