



Alliance for Biosecurity Applauds Formation of Blue Ribbon Biodefense Panel

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Washington, D.C. -- The Alliance for Biosecurity welcomes the launch of the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense. The panel is sponsored by the Hudson Institute and the Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies. The panel will assess the nation's preparedness for biological and chemical threats, and will identify and recommend concrete actions to strengthen the country's ability to respond to these threats. The panel will present its recommendations to the 114th Congress, the Obama Administration, and the next Presidential administration.

With the Ebola outbreak and its devastating impact in the news, the conversation about the need for preparing for public health emergencies including bio-terrorism, has re-emerged. This makes the timing of the formation of the Blue Ribbon panel helpful in advancing that conversation.

"Preparing for a public health emergency, man-made or natural, is not a static enterprise that is simply built and put in place. It is a dynamic exercise that needs to constantly evolve with new advances in science and medicine as well as threats," said Elizabeth Posillico, President and CEO of Elusys Therapeutics, Inc. and Alliance for Biosecurity Co-Chair.

This bipartisan Panel, chaired by former Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and former Governor and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge (R-PA), includes former governor and HHS Secretary Donna Shalala (D-WI), former Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD), former representative and chairman of BIO Jim Greenwood (R-PA) and former Homeland Security advisor to former President George W. Bush Kenneth Wainstein.

"This important and timely initiative will contribute to the critical national dialogue on preparing for national disasters in light of the current Ebola outbreak and escalating global terrorist activity. The Alliance looks forward to the Panel's policy guidance and to continuing to engage with the Executive Branch and the Congress on such matters of preparedness," concluded Posillico.

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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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