

March 22, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing public health, healthcare providers, emergency managers, environmental health, biotechnology innovators, and researchers, we are again writing to encourage you to advance the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness & Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPAI, H.R. 269), which overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives in January. A similar version passed the Senate Health Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee last year. The HELP and Energy & Commerce Committees have made tremendous, bipartisan progress on this important legislation, and it would be a setback for our national health security to further delay reauthorization. The disaster relief package being considered by Congress would be a logical vehicle for PAHPAI.

The recent wildfires, hurricanes and measles outbreaks have demonstrated that all sectors – public health, healthcare and private sector – play a critical role in saving lives during disasters and outbreaks. PAHPA is the backbone of our nation’s health security, providing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with authorities for preparing the healthcare and public health systems for disasters and strengthening the medical countermeasures enterprise. The legislation addresses gaps we have seen in recent responses, such as the speed of funding for public health emergencies, development and deployment of medical countermeasures for significant threats and preparedness for children in disasters.

The time is now to move this legislation. We are particularly concerned that several authorities have expired as of 2018, including temporary reassignment of state and local personnel, the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters, limited antitrust exemption and other provisions critical to HHS contracting. We believe that time is of the essence in reauthorizing these important authorities.

We commend the work of the committed Senators, Representatives and their staff who have devoted considerable thought to this legislation. Our organizations are committed to our nation’s health security, and we remain ready to assist in order to see this legislation enacted into law as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

AABB (formerly known as American Association of Blood Banks)

AFSCME

Alliance for Biosecurity

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Poison Control Centers

American Association on Health and Disability

American Hospital Association

American Public Health Association

American Society for Microbiology

America's Blood Centers

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Public Health Laboratories

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Barnesville Hospital

Berger Health System

Big Cities Health Coalition

Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

California Life Sciences Association

Central Ohio Trauma System

Child Care Aware of America

Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)

Coshocton Regional Medical Center

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Entomological Society of America  
Fayette County Memorial Hospital  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Future of Life Institute  
Genesis Community Ambulance  
Global Health Technologies Coalition  
Health Industry Distributors Association  
Health Resources in Action  
Healthcare Distribution Alliance  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Healthcare Ready  
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health  
Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Association of Emergency Managers  
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Louisiana Public Health Institute  
March of Dimes  
Mount Carmel Health System  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials  
National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Columbia University  
National Emergency Management Association

National Network of Public Health Institutes

NEHA

Oklahoma City-County Health Department

One Health Commission

One Health Initiative Autonomous *pro bono* Team

Public Health – Seattle King County

Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State

The Antimicrobials Working Group (Amplyx Pharmaceuticals, Aridis Pharmaceuticals, Cidara Therapeutics Inc., ContraFect Corporation, Entasis Therapeutics Inc., Iterum Therapeutics Ltd., Melinta Therapeutics Inc., Motif Bio plc, Nabriva Therapeutics US Inc., Paratek Pharmaceuticals Inc., Qpex Biopharma Inc., SCYNEXIS Inc., Summit Therapeutics plc and VenatoRx Pharmaceuticals Inc.)

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

Trauma Center Association of America

Trust for America's Health

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals

Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association

cc: Chairman Lamar Alexander, HELP Committee  
Representative Susan W. Brooks  
Senator Richard Burr  
Senator Bob Casey  
Representative Anna Eshoo  
Ranking Member Kay Granger, House Appropriations Committee  
Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Chairwoman Nita Lowey, House Appropriations Committee  
Ranking Member Patty Murray, HELP Committee  
Chairman Frank Pallone, Energy & Commerce Committee  
Chairman Richard Shelby, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Ranking Member Greg Walden, Energy & Commerce Committee