Re: The Urgent Need to Reauthorize PAHPA

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong desire to see the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) reauthorized before the end of the calendar year in the same bipartisan fashion it has been supported since the original authorization 17 years ago.

As you know, PAHPA underpins Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies, programs, and funding authorizations for addressing national health security threats. PAHPA created the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (now the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and provides important congressional oversight and direction to federal programs related to early warning, prevention, preparedness, and response.

This overall framework expired on September 30, 2023, requiring stopgap, temporary extensions in the continuing resolution, which expires on November 17. We encourage Congress to include a comprehensive five-year PAHPA reauthorization in the next moving legislative vehicle.

The last three PAHPA bills all shared major recurring themes: they all adjusted to the changing threat landscape, focused on challenges identified since the prior bill, and considerably strengthened our nation’s health security with each reauthorization.

Our nation’s changing health security threat landscape and the federal government’s responsibility to protect the American people demand that we work together now to find a strong bipartisan path forward to reauthorize this critical legislation. Whether the next health security threat is naturally occurring, the result of an accident, or intentionally caused, our country must be in a better position to prevent, prepare for, and respond to such incidents.

Failing to reauthorize PAHPA would have serious effects on our country’s economic wellbeing, national security, and health security given the rapidly changing threat landscape.
We are hopeful that PAHPA will remain a strong bipartisan legislative framework, as it has always been. We stand ready to assist you in whatever ways we can to help get this important law reauthorized this year.

Sincerely (in alphabetical order),

1Day Sooner
Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc.
Adaptive Phage Therapeutics
Aequor Inc.
American Ambulance Association
America’s Essential Hospitals
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Surgeons
American Hospital Association
American Lung Association
American Pharmacies
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
Arizona Bioindustry Association, Inc. (AZBio)
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals
ATCC (American Type Culture Collection)
Atea Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Bavarian Nordic
Big Cities Health Coalition
BioCT
BioForward Wisconsin
BioKanas
BioNJ
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
Bugworks
Cencora
Colorado BioScience Association
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Council of State Bioscience Associations (CSBA)
CSL Seqirus
Emergency Department Practice Management Association
Emergent BioSolutions
Federation of American Scientists
FluGen Inc.
Georgia Bio
Gerontological Society of America
Ginkgo Bioworks
Global Health Investment Corporation
Global Health Technologies Coalition
Gryphon Scientific
GSK
Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA)
Healthcare Distribution Alliance
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CC:

Chair Bernie Sanders  
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee  
US Senate

Ranking Member Bill Cassidy  
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee  
US Senate

Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
US House of Representatives

Ranking Member Frank Pallone  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
US House of Representatives