January 16, 2024

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
US Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
US House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
US House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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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 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. 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),

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GSK                                      New Orleans BioInnovation Center
Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA) NewYorkBIO
Healthcare Distribution Alliance NightHawk Biosciences
Healthcare Leadership Council Novavax
Healthcare Ready Ochsner Health
Helix Ohio Life Sciences Association
HIMSS Oklahoma Bioscience Association
HIV Medicine Association PDS Biotechnology
IAVI PharmaJet Inc.
Illinois Biotechnology Innovation Organization Premier Inc.
Indiana Health Industry Forum Public Health Accreditation Board
Infectious Diseases Society of America READDI Inc.
INOVIO Pharmaceuticals Research!America
Institute for Progress SAB Biotherapeutics, Inc.
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security Sanofi
Life Sciences PA SecureBio
Locus Biosciences Shionogi Inc.
Mallinckrodt SIGA Technologies, Inc.
Marked By Covid Society for Public Health Education
Mass General Brigham Soligenix, Inc.
MassBio Technologies for Pandemic Defense
McKesson Texas A&M Health Science Center
Medical Alley Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute
Medical Countermeasures Coalition Tonix Pharmaceuticals
Missouri Biotechnology Association (MOBIO) Trinity Health
Morehouse School of Medicine - Atlanta, GA TrippBio, Inc.
Mount Sinai Health System Trust for America’s Health
National Association of County and City Health Officials United Safety Technology Inc
National Immigration Law Center United States Pharmacopeia (USP)
NC Life Sciences Organization University of Hawaii
New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (NMBio) University of Maryland School of Medicine
New Orleans BioInnovation Center Valneva USA
Vaxess Technologies
Vaxxas Inc
Virginia Biotechnology Association
Washington State University

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