

November 13, 2012

Chairman Tom Harkin
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Fred Upton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Mike Enzi
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Henry Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Richard Burr
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Joe Pitts
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Bob Casey
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Mike Rogers
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin, Upton and Pitts, Ranking Members Enzi and Waxman, Senators Burr and Casey, and Rep. Rogers:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to finalize negotiations on the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA, S. 1855/H.R. 2405) and quickly pass this important legislation. The time is running short to reauthorize many important programs, such as the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), the BioShield Special Reserve Fund, Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants, the Hospital Preparedness Program, and others. We stand ready to work with you in moving the legislation to final passage.

The original PAHPA represented a major step in developing the role of America's public health and medical systems in preparing for and responding to major emergencies, whether natural or man-made. As evidenced by the recent, widespread destruction of Hurricane Sandy, our nation faces continuing threats that require an ongoing commitment to health preparedness. The reauthorization of PAHPA is an opportunity to build more prepared and resilient communities that are able to weather a storm, contain its impact, and return to normal as quickly as possible. We applaud the Committees for demonstrating your commitment to better preparing our nation for disasters and combating bioterrorism.

The bipartisan legislation contains significant advances in preparedness. The legislation will help advance medical countermeasure (MCM) development through increased coordination among agencies, a more transparent and consistent regulatory process, and continued commitment of government funding to incentivize industry to develop these countermeasures for which the federal government is the only customer. Strengthening the pipeline of medical products, drugs and devices that will safeguard the nation during an emergency or pandemic is

vital to our national security. The legislation contains important innovations in pediatric preparedness and pediatric MCM development which were lacking in the original law. We also applaud provisions for advancing biosurveillance planning, as we face a new paradigm in health information. The basic programs that promote preparedness at the federal, state, local, and health system level need reauthorization and implementation.

Passage of PAHPRA would demonstrate our nation's commitment to prioritizing health preparedness and response in the same way we do other national security issues. PAHPRA enables the stable frontline response of the public health and healthcare systems, rather than funding on an emergency-by-emergency basis.

We thank you for your leadership in advancing this important legislation and look forward to its passage.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Achaogen, Inc.
Alliance for Biosecurity
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American Association of Poison Control Centers
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American Public Health Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Bavarian Nordic
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)
Center for Biosecurity of UPMC
Chimerix, Inc.
CSL Biotherapies
Emergent BioSolutions
GlaxoSmithKline
Habitat for Humanity
Ikaria
Immunization Action Coalition
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Association of EMS Chiefs
Medicago, Inc.
MedImmune
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of School Nurses

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Novartis Vaccines
Novavax, Inc.
PharmAthene
Planet Biotechnology Inc.
RiverStone Health (Billings, MT)
Roundtable on Critical Care Policy
Sanofi Pasteur
Sarepta Therapeutics
Save the Children
SIGA Technologies
SRI International
Trust for America's Health
United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC)
Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.