

Take Action to Strengthen the Infectious Diseases Workforce to Prepare for Future Pandemics and Respond to Current Public Health Threats

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The COVID-19 pandemic exposed serious weaknesses in our nation's preparedness for public health emergencies related to infectious disease outbreaks, including insufficient bio-preparedness and ID workforce capacity at health care facilities. The ID and HIV workforce also is central

to preventing, treating and eventually stopping ongoing public health threats, including monkeypox, HIV, viral hepatitis and bacterial and fungal infections that are on the rise due to opioid use and other substance use epidemics. Workforce shortages are limiting our ability to control these persistent epidemics. Ending HIV as an epidemic and eliminating viral hepatitis in the United States are achievable goals with federal investments to improve access to care and treatment and ensure the expert clinical workforce necessary to provide services.



Request:

- Enact the BIO-Preparedness Workforce Pilot Program, as included in the bipartisan PREVENT Pandemics Act. The Pilot would incentivize health care professionals to pursue careers in ID/HIV and work in underserved areas or certain federal facilities like Ryan White Clinics by providing targeted loan repayment.
- PREVENT, by Senate HELP Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Burr (R-NC) was passed by the HELP Committee with overwhelming support (vote of 20-2).
- The Pilot Program is based on the bipartisan Bolstering Infectious Outbreaks (BIO) Preparedness Workforce Act (H.R. 5602) by Representatives Trahan (D-MA) and McKinley (R-WV) and Senators Baldwin (D-WI), Collins (R-ME), Rosen (D-NV) and Murkowski (R-AK).

Background: The PREVENT Pandemics Act includes a bio-preparedness workforce pilot program to provide loan repayment to health care professionals working in ID or emergency preparedness and response. The program would be open to health care professionals who are completing training or who have graduated within the preceding 10 years and who are or will be working in a federal facility, including Ryan White clinics, a [medically underserved](#) community, a [health professionals' shortage area](#), a tribal facility or another relevant entity as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services. *The program will not duplicate existing loan repayment programs as none of the existing programs offer loan repayment for providing infectious diseases related services.*

Contact IDSA Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Government Relations Amanda Jezek at ajezek@idsociety.org with questions.