



Infectious Diseases Society of America



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June 1, 2016

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Johan S. Bakken, MD, PhD, FIDSA
St. Luke's ID Associates
Duluth, MN

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Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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Re: Support for Amendment #4369 to S. 2943 sponsored by Senators Cochran and Durbin

SECRETARY

Penelope H. Dennehy, MD, FIDSA
Hasbro Children's Hospital
Providence, RI

Dear Senators McConnell and Reid:

TREASURER

Helen W. Boucher, MD, FIDSA
Tufts Medical Center
Boston, MA

We are writing on behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the HIV Medicine Association to express our concerns with provisions in S. 2943, The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 which would impose severe restrictions on medical research funded through the Department of Defense and impose onerous audit and contracting requirements on research grant recipients. We believe that Sections 756 and 898 of S. 2943, if enacted, would dramatically curtail infectious diseases research at the Defense Department in ways that would be deleterious to service members, veterans, and their families. We urge you to assist in eliminating these provisions by supporting Amendment #4369 to S. 2943 sponsored by Senators Cochran and Durbin.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Stephen B. Calderwood, MD, FIDSA
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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IDSAs represents more than 10,000 infectious diseases physicians and scientists devoted to research, patient care, prevention, public health and education. Within IDSAs, HIVMA represents more than 5,000 researchers and clinicians on the front lines of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

HIVMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Carlos del Rio, MD, FIDSA
Emory University
Atlanta, GA

The Department of Defense has significant investments in infectious diseases-related research in antimicrobial resistance, HIV infection, tuberculosis, influenza and vaccine development, among others. Infectious diseases can compromise military readiness, the success of U.S. military missions and the stability and security of developing nations. The Military HIV Research Program is a vital partner with the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases in the quest to test and develop an effective vaccine to prevent HIV infection. The unique capacity of the military to conduct and manage large scale clinical trials that are essential to successful vaccine development depends on this and other research partnerships. DoD also is partnering with the NIH and others on important research evaluating the human microbiome that includes working to improve outcomes for wounded soldiers by studying how the microorganisms they have been exposed to overseas may affect their response to available treatment options. The Defense Department's infectious diseases research portfolio protects service members overseas, the health of American civilians at home, and serves as a critical component of global security efforts.

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We respectfully ask that you consider supporting Amendment # 4369. At a

minimum, we urge you to work with the bill managers to ensure that there is a full airing of the issues related to medical research, and a vote on the amendment, when S. 2943 reaches the Senate floor for consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Johan S. Bakken MD, PhD in cursive script.

Johan S. Bakken, MD, PhD, FIDSA
IDSA President

Handwritten signature of Carlos del Rio in cursive script.

Carlos del Rio, MD, FIDSA
Chair, HIVMA Board of Directors