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Infectious Diseases Society of America

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July 17, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
2185 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Brooks  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
1030 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
237 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Representative Brooks and Representative Eshoo:

Thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 6378, the *Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018 (PAHPAI)* that both reauthorizes and strengthens the Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). IDSAs represents over 11,000 infectious diseases physicians and scientists. Many of our members work on the frontlines of public health emergencies, including bioterror attacks, outbreaks, and natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes that carry significant infectious diseases risks).

The programs and authorities contained within PAHPA provide essential resources for communities and health care facilities to prepare for and respond to public health threats. Further, PAHPA provides critical support for the research and development (R&D) of life-saving medical countermeasures (including vaccines, diagnostics, and antimicrobial drugs). In particular, IDSAs is pleased to offer our strong support for the provision in H.R. 6378 to reinstate loan repayment authority for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve programs that train public health responders and future leaders, such as the Epidemic Intelligence Service. We also support the bill's attention to antimicrobial resistance. We look forward to working with the Committee on continued efforts to address this urgent public health threat.

A successful response to a public health emergency depends upon skilled personnel. Section 115 of H.R. 6378 will strengthen the ability of the CDC to recruit physicians to serve in the Epidemic Intelligence Service—a fellowship program that trains expert responders to infectious disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies. We greatly appreciate your inclusion of this important provision.

IDSAs remains deeply concerned about antimicrobial resistance that threatens our national health security. We appreciate language in Section 302 authorizing the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to undertake strategic initiatives to address antimicrobial resistance, as well as Section 406 that codifies the Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. These substantive

efforts will continue to strengthen our national response to antimicrobial resistance, though we believe additional efforts will be essential to spur the research, development and appropriate use of urgently needed new antibiotics.

Once again, IDSA thanks you for your dedication to our nation's health security. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these crucial issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul G. Auwaerter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul G. Auwaerter, MD, MBA, FIDSA  
President, IDSA