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Public Witness Testimony – Fiscal Year 2026 LHHS Appropriations

Submitted by:

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Prepared for:

U.S. House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies Appropriations

Addressing:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Administration for Strategic
Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

The Alliance for Biosecurity is pleased to submit this testimony to the Subcommittee on the importance of federal preparedness and response programs and respectfully urges Congress to support increased and sustained investments in the development, procurement, and deployment of medical countermeasures (MCMs) to combat growing chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats. Continuity across the MCM enterprise is necessary to protect the warfighter, the American people, preserving national security, and strengthening our domestic preparedness and response capabilities.

The Alliance thanks Congress and the Subcommittee for its bipartisan support of federal preparedness and response programs, including annual funding for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, the Project BioShield Strategic Reserve Fund, pandemic influenza preparedness, and the Strategic National Stockpile. For fiscal year 2026, the Alliance is requesting the Subcommittee support the continued growth of those programs as well as funding to maintain the White House Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy.

The Alliance for Biosecurity is a coalition of biopharmaceutical companies and partners that advocates for MCM development, production, and distribution to protect Americans at home and abroad from deadly natural and man-made health threats. For more information, please visit www.allianceforbiosecurity.com or contact info@allianceforbiosecurity.com.

National Biodefense Priorities

The fiscal year 2026 appropriations process coincides with a significant period for national biosecurity policy. This year, Congress continues its important work to reauthorize the *Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act*. In addition, President Trump's Executive Action on *Withdrawing the United States From the World Health Organization*, issued January 20, 2025, requires the U.S. Government to "fortify biosecurity" and "replace the

2024 U.S. Global Health Security Strategy.” To assist Congress in advancing U.S. biosecurity leadership and the Trump Administration’s efforts in meeting this Executive Order, this Alliance has outlined key priorities for a robust national biodefense strategy, including:

- Sustaining federal investment in MCM development and procurement to meet requirements driven by Material Threat Determinations (MTD);
- Strengthening public-private partnerships to enhance domestic biodefense capabilities;
- Prioritizing and preserving CBRN Defense capabilities through Industrial Base Management; and
- Including biodefense in the U.S. overall national security strategy, including to meet growing chemical and biological weapons threats identified in the 2025 *Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community*.

A Critical Public-Private Partnership

The strong and enduring partnership between the federal government and domestic private industry has been instrumental in advancing our nation’s readiness, safety, and response efforts, ensuring that the United States remains prepared to address growing CBRN threats. The Alliance and our member companies have a longstanding track record of collaboration with the U.S. Government, including with Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), BARDA, ASPR, and the Department of Defense (DoD). This partnership model was tested and proven through the Trump Administration’s Operation Warp Speed, where Alliance members contributed significantly to the development and rapid deployment of diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments.

Continued support for public-private partnerships and leveraging industry expertise and capabilities are central to the Alliance’s mission and goals and recognizes a critical reality: there are no available commercial markets for many MCMs. Instead, MCM products developed and produced by Alliance Members are in response to government needs, including stockpiling and emergency response. Congress has consistently recognized the government’s central role in MCM development and procurement through annual appropriations legislation. However, sustainable federal funding is essential to fostering these public-private partnerships, which fill preparedness gaps and ensure efficient and consistent development of essential MCMs.

The Need for Sustained Investment

While the federal government plays a vital role in bolstering America’s biosecurity, it cannot safeguard the nation alone. Robust and sustained federal investment is essential to foster the public-private partnerships needed to close gaps in our medical countermeasure (MCM) preparedness. The COVID-19 pandemic and other recent health emergencies revealed deep vulnerabilities in our biodefense infrastructure, caused in large part by chronic

underfunding. These shortcomings prompted the launch of Operation Warp Speed, a successful but costly intervention driven by significant contributions from Alliance members, which delivered rapid advancements in diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.

However, since the end of *Operation Warp Speed* in 2021, federal investment in the research, development, and stockpiling of next-generation MCMs has once again declined. This lack of sustained support was evident during the Monkeypox Public Health Emergency, which highlighted the risks of an under-resourced MCM enterprise. The prior Administration failed to act on lessons learned, diverting funds toward commercially available products like ventilators and N-95 masks rather than modernizing and replenishing the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) with CBRN countermeasures.

As outlined in the [2025 Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community](#), adversaries such as China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea continue to expand their chemical and biological weapons capabilities. Many essential MCMs—such as those for anthrax and smallpox—lack a commercial market and require ongoing federal procurement and industrial base support to ensure availability and supply chain continuity. Like other pharmaceutical products, these countermeasures must be regularly replenished to maintain readiness.

Sustained collaboration between federal agencies and private industry has proven effective in driving innovation, strengthening supply chains, and ensuring access to lifesaving MCMs. To confront the evolving CBRN threat, the federal government must recommit to long-term partnerships with industry. These investments are critical not only for national security but also for establishing the United States as a global leader in biosecurity.

As such, the Alliance for Biosecurity’s Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations requests include:

Alliance for Biosecurity FY 2026 Appropriations Requests

Alliance for Biosecurity FY 2026 Funding Request (in millions)	FY 2025 Enacted	PHEMCE Multi-year Budget for FYs 2023-27	FY 2026 Alliance Request
Department of Health & Human Services			
BARDA			
-- <i>Advanced Research and Development</i>	\$1,015	\$8,851	\$1,400
Project BioShield SRF	\$825	\$1,630	\$1,000
Pan Flu Preparedness	\$335	\$1,913	\$410
Strategic National Stockpile	\$980	\$1,588	\$1,588
Office of Preparedness	N/A	N/A	7

Funding levels subject to change depending on the President’s FY2026 Budget Request

The Alliance for Biosecurity urges Congress and the Trump Administration to adopt a proactive approach to biosecurity. By funding essential programs, maintaining strong public-private partnerships, and treating biosecurity as a national security priority, we can protect American lives and ensure long-term resilience against biological threats. Now is the time to act—our nation's security depends on it.

The Alliance for Biosecurity thanks the Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. The Alliance stands ready to be a resource to the Subcommittee as Congress continues its important work on the fiscal year 2026 appropriations process.