



July 17, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Brooks
United States House of Representatives
1030 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

On behalf of the Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for H.R. 6378, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018 (PAHPAI). HIDA commends you for your leadership on this issue and appreciates the active engagement of your staff with industry to incorporate lessons learned from recent events such as Ebola and the 2017 hurricane season, in H.R. 6378, to continually improve our nation's preparedness capabilities.

HIDA is the trade association representing medical products distributors, all of which deliver medical products and supplies, manage logistics, and offer customer services to more than 294,000 points of care. HIDA members primarily distribute items used in every day medical services and procedures, ranging from gauze and gloves to diagnostic laboratory tests. Their customers include over 210,000 physician offices, 6,500 hospitals, and 44,000 nursing home and extended care facilities throughout the country, as well as numerous federal agencies and their healthcare facilities.

As you know, the medical supply chain plays a critical role in preparedness, as it supplies key infection prevention products and protective equipment such as respirators, face shields, hoods, impermeable gowns and gloves to first responders and health care providers. Additionally, the medical supply chain is the primary source for the diagnostic and point-of-care rapid tests needed to identify infectious disease, as well as the ancillary products such as gloves, needles and syringes needed to deliver medical countermeasures effectively.

HIDA and its members have collaborated with federal agencies on identifying opportunities to improve coordination and develop solutions that create more elasticity in the supply chain for key products. One



of the many lessons learned during the 2017 hurricane season was a considerable need to improve coordination during an emergency response, ensuring appropriate infrastructure partners are included in a prioritization process for access to affected areas after an event. We appreciate the Committees' acknowledgement of the importance of this issue in the legislation, as well as the recognition of the healthcare supply chain in H.R. 6378. Specifically, we support the following:

- Section 101 provisions important to the healthcare supply chain including
 - The value of public and private sector coordination during an event to ensure critical supplies are delivered and information is shared.
 - The requirement that ancillary products needed to deliver a medical countermeasure are incorporated into the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise planning process.
- Section 319C-3 provisions that create a regional healthcare system plan and that it be communicated to supply chain partners so needed product can be redirected during a response.

HIDA thanks you for your continued commitment to preparedness and look forward to working with you on H.R. 6378. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 703-838-6125 or via email at Rouse@HIDA.org.

Sincerely,



Linda Rouse O'Neill
Vice President, Government Affairs
Health Industry Distributors Association