

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Susan Brooks
1505 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Brooks and Eshoo:

On behalf of California Life Sciences Association (CLSA) – the statewide public policy organization representing California’s leading life science innovators, including medical device, diagnostic, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, research universities and private, non-profit institutes, and venture capital firms – I am writing to express our support for H.R. 6378, the *Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation (PAHPAI) Act of 2018*, your legislation that will strengthen and improve our national preparedness and response for public health emergencies, and accelerate medical countermeasure research and development. Thank you for your leadership on this critically important issue.

As you know, the recent Ebola and Zika outbreaks and ongoing threats from terrorist organizations like ISIS have repeatedly exposed our nation’s continued vulnerability to bioterror and pandemic threats, demonstrating the need for robust biodefense preparedness. Robust, long-term funding, and strong and sustained public-private partnerships remain critical in ensuring a well-funded, well-coordinated, swift and effective response from all stakeholders. This includes, critically, a robust statutory framework for securing our nation from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats, as well as from pandemic influenza (PI), antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and emerging infectious diseases (EID).

To that end, H.R. 6378 strengthens our country’s national preparedness and response efforts for public health emergencies by codifying the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise and the duties of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), while maintaining the important role of the Centers for Disease Control in emergency and response activities. The legislation also provides the authorization and federal resources to invest in programs related to Pandemic Influenza and Emerging Infectious Diseases.

We are pleased the bill provides new authorities to the Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to develop strategic initiatives for threats that pose a significant level of risk to national security, including antimicrobial resistant pathogens. We also encourage you to continue working with you colleagues on the House Committee on Energy & Commerce and congressional leadership to explore the creation of new incentives to encourage investment into the development of products to treat or prevent a disease attributable to a multi-drug resistant bacterial or fungal pathogen.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each year at least two million people in the United States are infected with bacteria that cannot be treated with an antibiotic, resulting in roughly 23,000 deaths and health care costs as much as \$20 billion annually. These staggering statistics illustrate a dangerous reality: even as the rate of anti-microbial resistance has grown, research and drug development has not kept pace with the dire need for new medicines to treat these increasingly lethal “superbugs.”

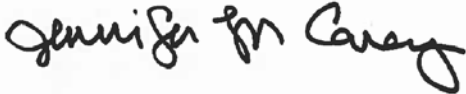


Given the threat that these deadly pathogens pose to public health in the United States and across the world, the need for effective public-private partnerships between the government, academia and industry has never been greater. The growing epidemic of multidrug-resistant infections knows no borders and the reestablishment of antibiotic development as a viable investment for life sciences innovators is imperative to public health and preparedness.

Thank you again for your leadership of H.R. 6378, as well as your long-standing support for legislation and policy measures that improve our nation's biodefense preparedness and response capabilities.

CLSA is pleased to join a broad group of stakeholders in offering our strong support for H.R. 6378, the *Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018*. Please let me know if CLSA can be of assistance to you – I can be reached at jcarey@califesciences.org or (202) 743-7559.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Nieto Carey
Vice President – Federal Government Relations & Alliance Development

