

September 16, 2015

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 over 750 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 your legislation, H.R. 3299, the *Strengthening Public Health Emergency Response Act of 2015*. CLSA is pleased to endorse this legislation that will improve our nation’s biodefense preparedness.

As you know, the recent Ebola outbreak exposed our nation’s continued vulnerability to bioterror and pandemic threats, demonstrating the need for robust biodefense preparedness. Strengthening existing public-private partnerships, such as the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), as well as creating new incentives for the research and development of medical countermeasures are critical for the United States to appropriately prepare against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats as well as dangers like pandemic influenza.

The *Strengthening Public Health Emergency Response Act* is an important step forward in ensuring our nation’s biodefense infrastructure is adequately prepared in the event of a bioterrorism event or pandemic outbreak. The bill creates a priority review voucher program to incentivize the research, development and licensure of medical countermeasures in a space where there is no commercial application for the product, bridging a serious gap in the nation’s readiness against national security threats. In addition, the legislation will streamline the BARDA procurement process, improving this essential public-private partnership by creating a more efficient, predictable and seamless approval process for these vital products.

CLSA applauds your leadership on this important legislation and we are pleased to join a broad group of stakeholders in offering our strong support for H.R. 3299, the *Strengthening Public Health Emergency Response Act of 2015*. Please let me know if CLSA can be of assistance to you – I can be reached at [tgillenwater@califesciences.org](mailto:tgillenwater@califesciences.org) or (202) 743-7562.

Sincerely,



Todd Gillenwater  
Executive Vice President – Advocacy & External Relations

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