AMENDMENT TO H.R. 391

OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

Strike sections 2, 3, and 4 and insert the following:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In December 2009, President Obama released the National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats, which listed as one of seven objectives “Promote global health security: Increase the availability of and access to knowledge and products of the life sciences that can help reduce the impact from outbreaks of infectious disease whether of natural, accidental, or deliberate origin”.

(2) In February 2014, the United States and nearly 30 other nations launched the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) to address several high-priority, global infectious disease threats. The GHSA is a multi-faceted, multi-country initiative intended to accelerate partner countries’ measurable capabilities to achieve specific targets to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats, whether naturally occurring, deliberate, or accidental.
(3) In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include specific reference to the importance of global health security as part of SDG 3 “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” as follows: “strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks”.

(4) On November 4, 2016, President Obama signed Executive Order No. 13747, “Advancing the Global Health Security Agenda to Achieve a World Safe and Secure from Infectious Disease Threats”.

(5) In October 2017 at the GHSA Ministerial Meeting in Uganda, the United States and more than 40 GHSA member countries supported the “Kampala Declaration” to extend the GHSA for an additional 5 years to 2024.

(6) In December 2017, President Trump released the National Security Strategy, which includes the priority action: “Detect and contain bio-threats at their source: We will work with other countries to detect and mitigate outbreaks early to prevent the spread of disease. We will encourage other countries to invest in basic health care systems
and to strengthen global health security across the
intersection of human and animal health to prevent
infectious disease outbreaks”.

(7) In September 2018, President Trump re-
leased the National Biodefense Strategy, which in-
cludes objectives to “strengthen global health secu-
rrity capacities to prevent local bioincidents from be-
coming epidemics”, and “strengthen international
preparedness to support international response and
recovery capabilities”.

(8) In January 2021, President Biden issued
Executive Order 13987 (86 Fed. Reg. 7019; relating
to Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Gov-
ernment to Provide a Unified and Effective Re-
spoonse to Combat COVID–19 and to Provide United
States Leadership on Global Health and Security),
as well as National Security Memorandum on
United States Global Leadership to Strengthen the
International COVID–19 Response and to Advance
Global Health Security and Biological Preparedness,
which include objectives to strengthen and reform
the World Health Organization, increase United
States leadership in the global response to COVID–
19, and to finance and advance global health secu-
rrity and pandemic preparedness.
SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) promote and invest in global health security and pandemic preparedness as a core national security interest;

(2) advance the aims of the Global Health Security Agenda;

(3) collaborate with other countries to detect and mitigate outbreaks early to prevent the spread of disease;

(4) encourage and support other countries to advance pandemic preparedness by investing in basic resilient and sustainable health care systems; and

(5) strengthen global health security across the intersection of human and animal health to prepare for and prevent infectious disease outbreaks and combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

SEC. 4. GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA INTERAGENCY REVIEW COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish a Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review Council (in this section referred to as the “Council”) to perform the general responsibilities described in subsection (c) and the specific roles and responsibilities described in subsection (e).
(b) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not less than four times per year to advance its mission and fulfill its responsibilities.

(c) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Council shall be responsible for the following activities:

(1) Provide policy-level recommendations to participating agencies on Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) goals, objectives, and implementation, and other international efforts to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response.

(2) Facilitate interagency, multi-sectoral engagement to carry out GHSA implementation.

(3) Provide a forum for raising and working to resolve interagency disagreements concerning the GHSA, and other international efforts to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response.

(4)(A) Review the progress toward and work to resolve challenges in achieving United States commitments under the GHSA, including commitments to assist other countries in achieving the GHSA targets.

(B) The Council shall consider, among other issues, the following:

(i) The status of United States financial commitments to the GHSA in the context of
commitments by other donors, and the con-
tributions of partner countries to achieve the
GHSA targets.

(ii) The progress toward the milestones
outlined in GHSA national plans for those
countries where the United States Government
has committed to assist in implementing the
GHSA and in annual work-plans outlining
agency priorities for implementing the GHSA.

(iii) The external evaluations of United
States and partner country capabilities to ad-
dress infectious disease threats, including the
ability to achieve the targets outlined within the
WHO Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tool, as
well as gaps identified by such external evalua-
tions.

(d) PARTICIPATION.—The Council shall be headed by
the Assistant to the President for National Security Af-
fairs, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal
agencies. The Council shall consist of representatives from
the following agencies:

(1) The Department of State.

(2) The Department of Defense.

(3) The Department of Justice.

(4) The Department of Agriculture.
(5) The Department of Health and Human Services.

(6) The Department of the Treasury.

(7) The Department of Labor.


(9) The Office of Management and Budget.

(10) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(11) The United States Agency for International Development.

(12) The Environmental Protection Agency.

(13) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(14) The Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(15) The National Institutes of Health.

(16) The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

(17) Such other agencies as the Council determines to be appropriate.

(e) SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of agencies described in subsection (d) shall—

(A) make the GHSA and its implementation and global pandemic preparedness a high
priority within their respective agencies, and include GHSA- and global pandemic preparedness-related activities within their respective agencies’ strategic planning and budget processes;

(B) designate a senior-level official to be responsible for the implementation of this Act;

(C) designate, in accordance with subsection (d), an appropriate representative at the Assistant Secretary level or higher to participate on the Council;

(D) keep the Council apprised of GHSA-related activities undertaken within their respective agencies;

(E) maintain responsibility for agency-related programmatic functions in coordination with host governments, country teams, and GHSA in-country teams, and in conjunction with other relevant agencies;

(F) coordinate with other agencies that are identified in this section to satisfy programmatic goals, and further facilitate coordination of country teams, implementers, and donors in host countries; and
(G) coordinate across national health security action plans and with GHSA and other partners, as appropriate, to which the United States is providing assistance.

(2) ADDITIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the roles and responsibilities described in paragraph (1), the heads of agencies described in subsection (d) shall carry out their respective roles and responsibilities described in subsections (b) through (i) of section 3 of Executive Order 13747 (81 Fed. Reg. 78701; relating to Advancing the Global Health Security Agenda to Achieve a World Safe and Secure from Infectious Disease Threats), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.