



July 18, 2018

Chairman Greg Walden  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr.  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Susan Brooks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Anna Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Reps. Brooks and Eshoo:

On behalf of Trust for America's Health (TFAH), I write in support of H.R. 6378, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPAIA) of 2018 and look forward to working with you to improve the legislation as it moves forward. TFAH is a non-partisan public health policy, research, and advocacy organization that promotes optimal health for every person and community and makes the prevention of illness and injury a national priority.

This legislation provides crucial tools for improving our nation's health. First, a stronger and more defined public health emergency response fund will enable the Secretary of Health and Human Services to speed up the public health response to emergencies and bridge the gap between underlying preparedness and supplemental appropriations.

We applaud the inclusion of provisions to shore up the pipeline of public health responders in the Epidemic Intelligence Service; to improve preparedness for children, older adults and people with disabilities; and to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The legislation reauthorizes and strengthens critical public health system and healthcare preparedness programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

We urge you to continue to work on the following changes which would further strengthen this legislation:

- **Funding:** We are concerned with the low authorization levels throughout the bill, especially the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program and the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), and a lack of new funding for programs such as the regional disaster healthcare response system. Funding for PHEP and HPP has eroded over time –PHEP has been cut by about one-third while HPP has nearly been cut in half – while the responsibilities of these programs have only grown.



- **Medical Countermeasures:** We encourage you to ensure the roles of CDC as well as state and local public health are maintained in the medical countermeasures enterprise functions and budget plan.
- **Workforce:** We urge you to expand hiring authorities for CDC to recruit and retain experts needed to conduct modern disease surveillance and situational awareness.

We are happy to work with your staff as a resource on these issues. We appreciate your leadership in the field of health security and hope the committee moves expeditiously on the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Auerbach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Auerbach, MBA  
President and CEO