



Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations

July 17, 2018

The Hon. Greg Walden, Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The Hon Frank Pallone, Ranking
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

I write in strong support of HR 6378, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPA.) As you know, public health emergencies can result from natural disasters, emerging pathogens, or man-made threats. Just last year we saw health challenges emerge on multiple fronts due to hurricanes, a virulent strain of the flu, and outbreaks of plague, Lassa, Nipah and Ebola overseas. The United States must do everything in its power to prepare for health emergencies, and HR 6378 goes a long way towards helping the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) achieve that goal.

As the CEO of CEPI, an international coalition whose mission it is to develop vaccines to prevent future epidemics, I am heartened to see language in the bill asking HHS to report on its work developing vaccines to prevent epidemics, including its collaborations with international organizations (Section 303). As we saw in the recent Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, vaccines and international coalitions can play a critically important role in outbreak response and HHS should maximize its support for this kind of vaccine research and development.

I am also pleased that HR 6378 creates an emerging infectious disease program within the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) [Section 302]. CEPI would welcome the opportunity to partner with BARDA on future vaccine candidates for emerging infectious diseases of global significance. In addition, the codification of the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise (PHEMCE) is another important feature of this bill [Section 101]. The PHEMCE works to ensure that medical countermeasure development is aligned across the government and that bottlenecks can be anticipated and prevented, which is important to prevent costly duplication of work and other inefficiencies.

In summary, I believe that HR 6378 will strengthen US public health preparedness, particularly when it comes to vaccines and medical countermeasure development and coordination, and I am pleased that it will be considered by your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.H.H.", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Richard Hatchett, CEO