

June 4, 2018

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Health

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Hearing entitled “Examining the Reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act”

I. INTRODUCTION

The Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing is entitled “Examining the Reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act.”

II. WITNESSES

PANEL ONE

- Robert Kadlec, MD, MTM&H, MS, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services;
- Stephen Redd, MD, Rear Admiral, Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- Anna Abram, Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Planning, Legislation, and Analysis, Food and Drug Administration.

PANEL TWO

- M. Michelle Berrey, MD, MPH, President and Chief Executive Officer, Chimerix;
- Umair Shah, MD, MPH, Executive Director, Harris County Public Health; and
- Erik Decker, MS, CISSP, Chief Security and Privacy Officer, University of Chicago Medicine.

III. BACKGROUND

Preparing for and responding to bioterrorism, chemical attacks, radiological emergencies, cybersecurity incidents, and mass casualty events requires the collaboration of the Federal government with hospitals, biotech firms, community members, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and other partners, both public and private, across the country. Threats such as the 2015-2016 Zika virus epidemic, the devastating 2017 hurricane season, and 2017 WannaCry

malware outbreak illustrate the importance of the nation having an effective and efficient emergency preparedness system in place.

The 2006 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) was enacted in order to “improve the Nation’s public health and medical preparedness and response capabilities for emergencies, whether deliberate, accidental, or natural.”¹ It established the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in addition to providing new authorities for medical surge capacity, advanced development and acquisitions of medical countermeasures, and resources for state and local emergency preparedness and response initiatives.

IV. LEGISLATION

The Subcommittee will review a discussion draft entitled “Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2018,” authored by Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN) and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA). This legislation will reauthorize key preparedness and response programs such as the Hospital Preparedness Program, Temporary Reassignment of Federally Funded Personnel, the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters, and the Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals. It clarifies the use of the Public Health Emergency Fund and codifies the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise. It improves the ability of the Secretary to fill intermittent Federal employee vacancies in National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) personnel to support preparedness for and response to threats and provides Public Safety Officer Benefit Act coverage for NDMS Employees. The bill also shifts the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the ASPR, aligning the oversight and operational control of the SNS with the broad emergency logistics and response mission of the ASPR. In addition, the legislation prioritizes preparing for and responding to cyber threats and provides resources for the development of medical countermeasures for pandemic influenza and emerging infectious diseases within Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).

V. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Danielle Steele or Kristen Shatynski of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

¹ Public Law No. 109-417