

Alliance for Biosecurity

Office of the Secretary and Legal Counsel
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January 30, 2009

Dear Senator:

We are writing on behalf of the Alliance for Biosecurity to urge that the funding for biosecurity medical countermeasure development at the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) be added to the Senate economic recovery package, or that the Senate cede to the House level during conference negotiations. In contrast to the Senate stimulus package introduced four months ago and the current House stimulus package, the economic stimulus bill passed yesterday by the Senate Appropriations Committee contains no funding for BARDA.¹ We believe that unless addressed, this represents a significant missed opportunity to stimulate the economy by creating and maintaining jobs in the biotech sector, and to strengthen U.S. preparedness for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats.

As you know, BARDA is one of our nation's first lines of defense against CBRN threats. Its mission is to support development of new drugs, vaccines, and other medical countermeasures that require a significant amount of resources, and time to produce. Since these medical products have essentially no commercial market – the government is the sole customer - finding private investors willing to fully support development of medical countermeasures against CBRN threats is nearly impossible. For this reason, a public investment in BARDA is necessary if these needed countermeasures are to be developed.

This funding is needed urgently because unfortunately, our country continues to lack the medical countermeasures such as drugs or vaccines for the CBRN agents most likely to be used against us. As you may be aware, the Center for Biosecurity recently estimated that \$3.39 billion per year in medical countermeasure development support would be required to achieve a 90% chance of developing a countermeasure for each of the eight biodefense requirements laid out in HHS's Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) Strategy for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Threats. Either the \$473 million BARDA funding level in the September, 2008 Senate stimulus package or the \$430 million House level, when combined with funds provided in the regular FY 2010 appropriations cycle, would help bring medical countermeasure development funding closer to this needed level. Without a significant increase in funding, the current status quo will persist: a serious and

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<i>Funding Vehicle</i>	<i>BARDA</i>	<i>Influenza</i>	<i>Total</i>
8/2008 White House Budget Request Amendment	\$473 million	\$363 million	\$836 million
9/2008 Senate Stimulus	\$473 million	\$363 million	\$836 million
1/2009 House Stimulus	\$430 million	\$420 million	\$850 million
1/2009 Senate Stimulus	\$0	\$870 million	\$870 million

December 22, 2008

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potentially catastrophic vulnerability to CBRN agents. The Senate has an opportunity to significantly advance national efforts to improve this situation now.

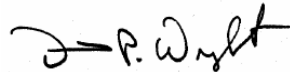
Furthermore, funding BARDA in the economic recovery package would have an immediate and significant stimulative impact on the biodefense industry, as well as the broader economy. Biotech firms, were they to receive funds as a result of BARDA funding in the stimulus package, could immediately begin putting these resources to work. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that each new biotech job results in the creation of 5.8 additional jobs in other industries. Furthermore, for every dollar of labor earnings or output in the biotech sector, another \$2.90 or \$1.70, respectively, are produced in other parts of the economy.

The Alliance for Biosecurity is a collaboration between the Center for Biosecurity of UPMC, pharmaceutical companies, and biotechnology companies working to develop vaccines and medicines for our nation's Strategic National Stockpile. The Alliance mission is to work in the public interest to promote a robust and sustainable research and development infrastructure necessary to prevent and treat the infectious disease threats that present security challenges in the 21st Century.


Again, we thank you for your support on this vital national security matter. Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Alliance,



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