

# Alliance for Biosecurity

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July 22, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

On behalf the Alliance for Biosecurity, we are writing to thank you for your past support of biosecurity priorities, and to bring to your attention a biosecurity provision in the House fiscal year (FY) 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill that we believe is problematic. The House bill, as currently constituted, includes a provision that would transfer \$500 million from the Project BioShield Special Reserve Fund (SRF) to the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The Alliance for Biosecurity strongly opposes this provision, and believes its enactment would significantly weaken national efforts to protect Americans from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats. Transferring funds out of the SRF and thereby stalling the purchase of additional countermeasures would increase the chances that this relatively new program might fail. We respectfully request that this provision not be included in the Senate LHHS bill.

In establishing the SRF, Congress recognized that without the guaranteed government commitment to countermeasure procurement that a long-term reserve fund represents, private sector companies with the expertise needed to develop drugs and vaccines would be unable to assume the risks inherent in drug development. Private sector firms cannot engage in product development processes that require 10 to 15 years and hundreds of millions of dollars unless they are reasonably certain that a market will exist for their product when it is finished. Until now, the SRF has served this function effectively. Although funds have recently been transferred out of the SRF for purposes unrelated to CBRN countermeasure procurement, the majority of the SRF has remained intact and available for the purchase of countermeasures, providing the certainty needed by companies working to develop these medicines. Depleting the SRF to support NIH would call into serious question the credibility of the government's commitment to countermeasure procurement, and by doing so make it difficult for the private sector to remain in the countermeasure business. While this would affect these companies and their employees, it would be a much larger setback for the country as a whole. To be clear: depleting the SRF to fund NIH will weaken biosecurity preparedness, and make Americans less safe. The Alliance agrees that robust funding of basic research at NIAID is critical to the success of our nation's biosecurity preparedness efforts and does not oppose increases to the NIAID budget. But this funding must not come at the expense of Project BioShield.

Bavarian-Nordic • Cangene Corporation • Center for Biosecurity of UPMC  
DOR BioPharma, Inc. • Dynport Vaccine Company LLC, a CSC Company • Elusys Therapeutics  
Emergent BioSolutions • Hematech, Inc., a subsidiary of Kyowa Kirin  
Human Genome Sciences, Inc. • Pfizer Inc. • PharmAthene • Siga Technologies  
Unither Virology LLC, a subsidiary of United Therapeutics Corporation

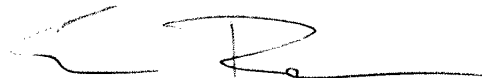
We request that the Senate not deplete the SRF by transferring funds, and that it provide an increased level of funding for BARDA advanced development that would help expedite the progress of countermeasures through advanced development to licensure so that they can be procured by the BioShield SRF.

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. We thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions or if we can otherwise be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us, or Anita Cicero of the Alliance Secretariat at ([anita.cicero@dbr.com](mailto:anita.cicero@dbr.com) 202-230-5163).

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Alliance,



Susan Berger, Ph.D.  
Senior Director of Operations and Communications  
Pfizer Inc.  
Co-Chair, Alliance for Biosecurity



Eric A. Rose, MD  
Chairman & CEO  
SIGA Technologies, Inc.  
Co-Chair, Alliance for Biosecurity

cc:

Members of the Senate LHHS Appropriations Committee  
Ellen Murray, Majority Clerk  
Bettilou Taylor, Minority Clerk