

# Center for Biosecurity

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UPMC | University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center

September 4, 2008

Representative David Obey  
Chairman  
House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative James Walsh  
Ranking Member  
House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Obey & Harkin and Ranking Members Walsh & Specter:

This letter is to express our strong support for the August 1, 2008 amendment to the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 budget request to increase funding to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by adding \$905 million to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF). These additional funds are critical to BARDA's success in carrying out its mission to develop new medicines and vaccines to counter the grave threats posed by pandemic influenza and by chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) weapons.

We commend the Congress for establishing BARDA via the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006 (PAHPA; P.L. 109-417). PAHPA authorized \$1.07 billion for FY 2006-2008 for BARDA. However, since its creation in December 2006, BARDA has received only \$201 million in total. While considerable progress has been made in its early phase, BARDA's success is seriously compromised by inadequate funding. The resources made available to date are not commensurate with the mission and the scope of the problems BARDA is charged with addressing.

The Center for Biosecurity recently conducted a detailed economic analysis of the funding required for BARDA to be successful in developing medicines and vaccines to treat or protect people from illness caused by biological weapons (see enclosure).<sup>1</sup> Our analysis concluded that \$3.39 billion is the level of FY 2009 funding BARDA would need to have a 90% probability of developing the eight biodefense MCMs that were deemed national requirements by the HHS Public Health Emergency Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) Implementation Plan. While a large number, this estimate is only for the biological (or "B") portion of CBRN; the total cost would likely be much higher. This estimated funding would be separate and in addition to the funding required to develop the pandemic influenza medicines and vaccines that HHS has committed to develop with all possible speed. While the \$905 million increase to the FY 2009 BARDA budget is not all that is required, it would be an important step forward and a substantial indication that the U.S. government is serious about BARDA and its mission to protect Americans.

We recognize the challenging nature of the FY 2009 budget environment. However, given the funding necessary to develop these essential medicines and vaccines, we strongly urge you to support the request to provide the additional \$905 million to BARDA. This work is critical for national security and to protect the health of Americans against the threats posed by CBRN weapons and pandemic influenza.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tara O'Toole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tara O'Toole, MD, MPH  
Director and CEO  
Center for Biosecurity of UPMC

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<sup>1</sup> BARDA FY09 Advanced Development Cost Estimates for Medical Countermeasures Against Biological Threats. Center for Biosecurity of UPMC. January 29, 2008.  
([http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/resources/commentary/2008-01-31-barda\\_fy09.html](http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/resources/commentary/2008-01-31-barda_fy09.html))

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cc:

Members of the House of Representatives  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies:

Representative Nita M. Lowey  
Representative Rosa L. DeLauro  
Representative Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.  
Representative Patrick J. Kennedy  
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Representative Barbara Lee  
Representative Tom Udall  
Representative Michael Honda  
Representative Betty McCollum  
Representative Tim Ryan  
Representative Ralph Regula  
Representative John E. Peterson  
Representative Dave Weldon  
Representative Michael K. Simpson  
Representative Dennis R. Rehberg  
Representative Jerry Lewis

Members of the Senate Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies:

Senator Daniel Inouye  
Senator Herb Kohl  
Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Mary Landrieu  
Senator Richard Durbin  
Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Frank Lautenberg  
Senator Thad Cochran  
Senator Judd Gregg  
Senator Larry Craig  
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Senator Ted Stevens  
Senator Richard Shelby

Representative Anna G. Eshoo  
Representative Mike Rogers (of Michigan)  
Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Senator Richard Burr  
Senator Joseph Lieberman  
Senator Susan Collins

Secretary Mike Leavitt, HHS  
W. Craig Vanderwagen, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, HHS  
Gerald W. Parker, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
Preparedness and Response, HHS  
Robin Robinson, Director, BARDA Office, HHS  
Brian Kamoie, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and  
Response, HHS  
Michael Kurilla, Director, Office of Biodefense Research Activities, NIH/NIAID  
Robert Kadlec, Special Assistant to President for Homeland Security and Senior Director for  
Biological Defense Policy

encl.