

Alliance for Biosecurity

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April 20, 2007

BY HAND

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

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

Dear Senator Harkin and Senator Specter:

We are writing to urge you to provide \$500 million in funding within the fiscal year (FY) 2008 Senate Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education (LHHS) Appropriations bill under the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for activities related to the advanced research and development of medical countermeasures through the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). This funding level will permit BARDA to begin implementing its authorized functions and activities.

BARDA is an important new authority that plays a vital role in protecting the United States and its citizens against the threat of bioterrorist attacks and naturally occurring pandemics. Our nation currently is vulnerable to severe and potentially devastating biothreats, such as anthrax and smallpox, in large part because our country does not have the vast majority of medical countermeasures needed to protect its citizens against these agents.

The President's FY 2008 budget requests \$189 million for BARDA through the PHSSEF. We believe that this funding level is insufficient to adequately protect our nation and its citizens against exposure, through a terrorist attack or a natural occurrence, to a biological agent.

With appropriate funding levels, BARDA can accomplish a number of important objectives that can facilitate advanced research and development of medical countermeasures as well as reinforce the nation's public health infrastructure and emergency preparedness. Furthermore, appropriating adequate funds in FY 2008 will send a message to industry that the federal government is a serious partner in the endeavor to create medical countermeasures for the Strategic National Stockpile.

If the Senate fails to provide BARDA with the funding it needs to carry out its mission, the nation runs the risk of being unprepared to protect its citizens in the face of a bioterrorist attack or pandemic and it will significantly set back the development of these crucial medicines and vaccines. Additionally, it may be catastrophic to many of the fledgling biotechnology firms currently devoting significant capital to the development of medical countermeasures in anticipation of forging a true partnership with the federal government.

Acambis, Inc. • Avecia Biotechnology • Bavarian-Nordic • Cangene Corporation • DOR BioPharma, Inc. • Dynport Vaccine Company LLC, a CSC Company • Center for Biosecurity of UPMC • Emergent BioSolutions • Elusys Therapeutics, Inc. • GlaxoSmithKline • Human Genome Sciences, Inc. • Iomai Vaccines, Inc. • NanoViricides, Inc. • Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. • Pfizer Inc. • PharmAthene

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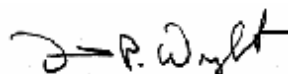
BARDA is authorized under Title IV of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (P.L. 109-417), which passed the Senate by unanimous consent in the final days of the 109th Congress. The legislation authorizes \$1.07 billion in funding for BARDA for FY 2006 through FY 2008, yet, to date only \$100 million has been appropriated in FY 2006 and FY 2007, combined, for the advanced research and development of medical countermeasures.

We strongly urge you to appropriate \$500 million in funding for BARDA in the FY 2008 LHHS Appropriations bill. This will help to make our nation safer. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

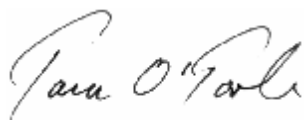
Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Alliance,



Susan Berger, Ph.D.
Director of Science, Knowledge & Policy
Pfizer Inc.
Co-Chair, Alliance for Biosecurity



David P. Wright
President & CEO
PharmAthene
Co-Chair, Alliance for Biosecurity



Tara O'Toole, MD
CEO & Director, Center for Biosecurity
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Strategic Director, Alliance for Biosecurity

cc: Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Edward Kennedy, United States Senate
The Honorable Richard Burr, United States Senate