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Amid Ebola crisis in Congo, U.S. biosecurity leaders pen letter to Preparedness Secretary

The Alliance for Biosecurity's letter explains the necessity of predictable public-private partnerships in order to defend the American public from health threats

WASHINGTON, DC – A non-profit organization of the United States' leading biosecurity companies and researchers has emphasized the importance of the National Biodefense Strategy in a letter to Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Dr. Robert Kadlec. [The letter](#) comes as the international biosecurity community battles with one of the worst public health crises in recent history, with the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo having its deadliest month in April.

The Alliance for Biosecurity says the Strategy will facilitate collaboration across the biodefense enterprise and situate the U.S. as a leader in preparing and responding to the serious and ever-changing biothreats our country faces, whether naturally occurring or intentional.

“Alliance members share a strong commitment to improving our nation’s national security; however, drug and vaccine development is risky, time consuming, and can cost billions to develop a new product,” Alliance secretariat and former Congressman Jack Kingston explains in the letter. “Given that a commercial market for medical countermeasures (MCMs) does not exist for the needed diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines, private sector partners rely on predictable government funding to facilitate future planning and maintain momentum in developing critical MCMs.”

During his 22 years in Congress, Kingston chaired the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education & Related Agencies, which appropriates funds for the programs that protect public health.

The Alliance highlighted four federal programs that are critical to and enhance the United States’ ability to respond to biological disasters: [1] Biomedical Advanced Research Development Authority (BARDA), [2] Project BIOShield Special Reserve Fund (SRF), [3] Funding for Pandemic Influenza preparedness, and [4] Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).

“Through coordination and consistent, robust funding, the partnership between the federal government and private entities will be better positioned to prepare for, respond to, and recover from biodefense disasters,” Kingston said.

The Alliance for Biosecurity is the leading industry voice on biosecurity issues and is an efficient, strategic organization committed to building and strengthening the partnership between government and industry to provide solutions to threats facing our nation. The Alliance and our 15 member companies advocate for public policies and funding to support rapid development, production, stockpiling, and distribution of critically needed MCMs.

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