



## REAUTHORIZING THE PANDEMIC AND ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS ACT (PAHPA)

### PAHPA is the legislative backbone of health security programs at HHS

Originally passed in 2006 in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States and the 2001 anthrax letter attacks, PAHPA established key programs that bolster US biodefense capabilities and empower HHS to respond to major health security threats and emergencies (P.L. 109-417).

PAHPA authorizes the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP).

The Act and the agencies and programs it authorizes are amazing successes. For example, BARDA has supported 95 medical countermeasures (MCMs) gain FDA approval, licensure, and clearance through public-private partnerships. These MCMs protect the American public and Department of Defense personnel against natural and deliberate health threats like Ebola, anthrax, and smallpox.

### PAHPA needs to be reauthorized

PAHPA has gained bipartisan reauthorization on a 5-year cycle since 2006 when it was signed into law. Each new iteration of the bill extends the act's key programs and adds new authorizations based on new threats, emerging dual-use technologies, and lessons learned since the last reauthorization.

A bipartisan PAHPA reauthorization bill awaits passage in Congress, and it includes key new provisions that improve the law.

PAHPA's core programs have operated under short-term extensions included in continuing resolutions since their authorizations expired in October 2023.

Biodefense and health security are too important to rely on last-minute, short-term extensions. A full reauthorization would ensure the long-term stability needed to sustain these critical programs and continue to support both private sector partners and the health and emergency response communities.

### Congress can act now to reauthorize PAHPA

- A comprehensive bipartisan bill exists and is ready to be passed. Congress can act now to make sure that the US is fully equipped to prepare for and respond to any health emergency, especially those that may present national security risks.
- There is [strong support](#) for a comprehensive PAHPA reauthorization, with more than 100 organizations urging congressional leadership to pass the bill.
- National health security threats—whether they emerge from advances in biotechnology and artificial intelligence, naturally occurring outbreaks, major storms, deliberate attacks, or accidents—require an agile, authorized, responsive government infrastructure.