



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), as well as other important programs.

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

Basic PAHPA authorities have been extended but still need a comprehensive update

PAHPA has had two comprehensive bipartisan reauthorizations since it was originally signed into law in 2006. Each new iteration of the bill extended the Act's key programs and added new authorizations based on new threats, emerging dual-use technologies, and lessons learned since the prior reauthorization. The PAHPA framework expired in September 2023.

In the FY 2025 continuing resolution, a few key PAHPA authorities were extended through September 2025. But the more comprehensive reauthorization package stalled, which would have added new provisions to improve the law.

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 private sector partners and the health and emergency response communities.

Congress can act now to reauthorize PAHPA

- By passing a comprehensive PAHPA reauthorization bill, 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 a 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.