
September 28, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leaders McConnell and McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write in strong support of the \$16 billion funding level for pandemic preparedness included in Division J of the Build Back Better Act, passed by the House Energy and Commerce Committee on September 15.

We strongly recommend that the Senate version of the Build Back Better Act also include at least \$16 billion for pandemic preparedness. These funds will deliver tangible national tools and capabilities that we need to save lives, jobs, and money when we inevitably face future dangerous outbreaks.

1 in 500 Americans have died from COVID-19. And it's estimated that the country has incurred \$16 trillion in economic losses. As COVID-19 has shown, we must build our pandemic defenses, such as a reliable ability to rapidly produce and distribute effective diagnostic tests, vaccines, and therapeutics for both known and unknown viral threats; technologies that will provide early warning systems and real-time monitoring so we can detect and track the course of outbreaks with increased speed and fidelity; a sufficient and dependable supply of effective masks and medical supplies; cost-effective methods for improving indoor air quality to minimize unnecessary disruptions of school, religious services, and workplaces; and a stronger public health infrastructure to deliver services to the American people and protect all of us, including vulnerable Americans, from health threats.

We must do everything in our power to prevent a global pandemic like COVID-19, or worse, from happening again.

Congress now has the opportunity to fund the defenses necessary to protect Americans from future pandemic threats by providing the down payment needed to start implementing a new proactive pandemic preparedness plan.

Providing at least \$16 billion for pandemic preparedness in the Senate version of the Build Back Better Act would jump start efforts to bring American ingenuity and resources to bear to meaningfully reduce the threat of future pandemics, if not eliminate their threat all together.

We thank you for your leadership on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and look forward to working with Congress on pandemic preparedness in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Biosecurity

Healthcare Ready

American Society for Microbiology

Helix Op Co, LLC

Association of Public Health Laboratories

Infectious Diseases Society of America

Big Cities Health Coalition

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

Biobot Analytics

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases

**Biotechnology Innovation Organization
(BIO)**

North Carolina AIDS Action Network

Coalition to Stop Flu

Nuclear Threat Initiative

CovidActNow

**O'Neill Institute for National and Global
Health Law, Georgetown University**

COVID Survivors for Change

Resolve to Save Lives

Foresite Labs

**Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of
America**

Ginkgo Bioworks

The Gerontological Society of America

Global Health Technologies Coalition

Trinity Health

Guarding Against Pandemics