

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee

Markup of Legislation to Reauthorize the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act

July 20, 2023

On July 20, 2023, the HELP Committee advanced [legislation](#) to reauthorize the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). Earlier this month, IDSA provided [feedback](#) on draft legislation circulated by the Committee and outlined IDSA's priorities and recommendations.

The legislation contains five sections which reauthorize a number of public health programs and includes additional programs to bolster national preparedness for public health emergencies. IDSA continues advocating on other relevant priorities not sufficiently addressed in PAHPA reauthorization, including strengthening the ID workforce, combating AMR and improving data collection and surveillance.

Title I – State and Local Readiness and Response

Includes multiple sections aimed at bolstering public health efforts and readiness planning for emergencies. Highlighted sections are outlined below:

- Sec. 101 – updates existing authority to allow state and tribal health officials to request temporary emergency assistance.
- Sec. 104 – reauthorizes the Hospital Preparedness Program and improving coordination of regional surge operations.
- Sec. 105 – extends the state medical stockpiles pilot program through FY28.
- Sec. 106 – codifies activities to detect circulation of infectious diseases through wastewater surveillance.
- Sec. 107 – reauthorizes the Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Program (MASH) and directs the use of innovative technology for mosquito control.

Title II – Federal Planning and Coordination

Includes the bulk of sections for the bill and addresses the ability of federal agencies to respond, plan, and adapt to public health emergencies as a coordinated entity. An amendment from Senator Hickenlooper (D-CO) was added to the bill to create a new pathway at FDA to review medical countermeasures for emerging pathogens and allow FDA to quickly evaluate and authorize countermeasures during a pandemic. Additional highlighted sections are below:

- Sec. 204 – Amends existing authorities to direct the Secretary of HHS to establish a pilot program for state and regional public health activities that make aggregated data readily available. Establishes a National Public Health Data Board – includes non-federal members with infectious diseases or public health experience, which IDSA previously advocated for.
- Sec. 205 – Updates current law to account for the current activities of the CARB Task Force and the President's Advisory Council on Combatting Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria.
- Sec. 207 – Encourages BARDA to prepare for "Disease X" by supporting innovative medical countermeasures of viral families of concern; authorized through FY 2028. IDSA has been supportive of the "Disease X" bill.

Title III – Addressing the Needs of All Individuals

Includes multiple sections targeting specialized readiness planning for specific groups impacted by public health emergencies like children, individuals with disabilities, pregnant people, and seniors. Highlighted sections are below:

- Sec. 305 – Establishes technical assistance centers to assist localities with planning for the needs of at-risk individuals during public health and medical response to an emergency.
- Sec. 307 – Directs the Secretary of HHS to coordinate federal activity to address and study the long-term effects of SARS-CoV-2.
- Sec. 308 – Directs the National Academies to study alternative plans to promote drug development in the United States (compared to the current domestic process).

Title IV – Strengthening Biosecurity

Includes four sections focused on federal biosecurity and biosafety efforts in public health and research. Highlighted sections are below:

- Sec 401 – Updates the Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP) to clarify that functionally equivalent variants or synthetic products of Select Agents are subject to the Program.
- Sec 402 – Established an anonymous, no fault reporting system for accidents or safety incidents involving pathogens or toxins in domestic labs.
- Sec 403 – Evaluates FSAP's effectiveness and seeks to update federal policies on biological research.
- Sec 404 -Codifies the Regional Biocontainment Laboratories to support the capacity for responding to biological agents.
- Sec. 407 – Directs HHS to commission a National Academics study on the potential vulnerabilities to health security posed by AI.

Title V – Preventing Drug Shortages

Includes sections that target supply chain reporting to the FDA, adds a notification procedure to FDA when manufacturers might face shortages of medical countermeasures, and a requirement for the Secretary to submit a report to Congress regarding implementation of activities aimed at addressing shortages.

Title VI – Additional Reauthorization and Technical Amendments

Reauthorizes a number of programs in PAHPA through FY 2028, including the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) loan repayment program, epidemiology-laboratory capacity grants, the Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, and vaccine tracking and distribution efforts.

The [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#) also advanced PAHPA legislation on July 20 in a parallel process. The House draft of PAHPA contained more controversial provisions and bills and was less bipartisan than the Senate draft. IDSA's summary of the House markup can be found [here](#). The next step in the legislative process is for the House and Senate to move their respective bills forward to the full

chamber and then to reconcile differences between the bills. IDSA will continue to advocate for provisions to support preparedness for infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics as well as efforts to combat anti-microbial resistance.

Please contact [Sara Hoopchuk](#), IDSA Senior Public Policy Coordinator, with any questions.