

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3489

To establish or continue a multidisciplinary research program to advance the discovery and preclinical development of medical products for priority virus families and other viral pathogens with a significant potential to cause a pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 12 (legislative day, JANUARY 10), 2022

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish or continue a multidisciplinary research program to advance the discovery and preclinical development of medical products for priority virus families and other viral pathogens with a significant potential to cause a pandemic, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. RESEARCH CENTERS FOR PATHOGENS OF PAN-**
4 **DEMIC CONCERN.**

5 Subpart 6 of part C of title IV of the Public Health
6 Service Act is amended by inserting after section 447C
7 (42 U.S.C. 285f–4) the following:

1 **“SEC. 447D. RESEARCH CENTERS FOR PATHOGENS OF PAN-**
2 **DEMIC CONCERN.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Institute, in
4 collaboration, as appropriate, with the directors of applica-
5 ble institutes, centers, and divisions of the National Insti-
6 tutes of Health, and the Director of the Biomedical Ad-
7 vanced Research and Development Authority, shall estab-
8 lish or continue a multidisciplinary research program to
9 advance the discovery and preclinical development of med-
10 ical products for priority virus families and other viral
11 pathogens with a significant potential to cause a pan-
12 demic, through support for research centers.

13 “(b) USES OF FUNDS.—The Director of the Institute
14 shall award funding through grants, contracts, or coopera-
15 tive agreements to public or private entities, or consortia
16 of such entities, to provide support for research centers
17 described in subsection (a) for the purpose of—

18 “(1) conducting basic research through pre-
19 clinical development of new medical products or
20 technologies, including platform technologies, to ad-
21 dress pathogens of pandemic concern;

22 “(2) identifying potential targets for thera-
23 peutic candidates, including antivirals, to treat such
24 pathogens;

25 “(3) identifying existing medical products with
26 the potential to address such pathogens, including

1 candidates that could be used in outpatient settings;
2 and

3 “(4) carrying out or supporting other research
4 related to medical products to address such patho-
5 gens, as determined appropriate by the Director.

6 “(c) COORDINATION.—The Director of the Institute
7 shall, as appropriate, provide for the coordination of ac-
8 tivities among the centers described in subsection (a), in-
9 cluding through—

10 “(1) facilitating the exchange of information
11 and regular communication among the centers, as
12 appropriate; and

13 “(2) requiring the periodic preparation and sub-
14 mission to the Director of reports on the activities
15 of each center.

16 “(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding funding through
17 grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under sub-
18 section (a), the Director of the Institute shall, as appro-
19 priate, give priority to applicants with existing frameworks
20 and partnerships, as applicable, to support the advance-
21 ment of such research.

22 “(e) COLLABORATION.—The Director of the Institute
23 shall—

24 “(1) collaborate with the heads of other appro-
25 priate Federal departments, agencies, and offices

1 with respect to the identification of additional pri-
2 ority virus families and other viral pathogens with a
3 significant potential to cause a pandemic; and

4 “(2) collaborate with the Director of the Bio-
5 medical Advanced Research and Development Au-
6 thority with respect to the research conducted by
7 centers described in subsection (a), including, as ap-
8 propriate, providing any updates on the research ad-
9 vancements made by such centers, identifying any
10 advanced research and development needs for such
11 countermeasures, consistent with section
12 319L(a)(6), and taking into consideration existing
13 manufacturing capacity and future capacity needs
14 for such medical products or technologies, including
15 platform technologies, supported by the centers de-
16 scribed in subsection (a).

17 “(f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Any support
18 received by a center described in subsection (a) under this
19 section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant,
20 other public or private support for activities authorized to
21 be supported.”.

22 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURE RE-**
23 **SEARCH COORDINATION.**

24 Section 402(b) in the Public Health Service Act (42
25 U.S.C. 282(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (24), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (25), by striking the period
4 and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (25) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(26) shall consult with the Assistant Secretary
8 for Preparedness and Response, the Director of the
9 Biomedical Advanced Research and Development
10 Authority, the Director of the Centers for Disease
11 Control and Prevention, and the heads of other Fed-
12 eral agencies and offices, as appropriate, regarding
13 research needs to advance medical countermeasures
14 to diagnose, mitigate, prevent, or treat harm from
15 any biological agent or toxin, including emerging in-
16 fectious diseases, chemical, radiological, or nuclear
17 agent that may cause a public health emergency or
18 other research needs related to emerging public
19 health threats.”.

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