

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 861

To establish an interagency One Health Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 18, 2021

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish an interagency One Health Program, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Emergency  
5 Preparedness Through One Health Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The term “One Health” reflects the inter-  
9 connectedness of human health, animal health, and  
10 the environment. As technology and population

1 growth facilitates increased interaction of human  
2 settlements with wildlife habitats and as inter-  
3 national travel and trade increases, the interface be-  
4 tween these elements will also continue to rise.

5 (2) When zoonotic diseases spill over to hu-  
6 mans, there are often enormous health and economic  
7 costs. The World Bank estimates that, between 1997  
8 and 2009, the global costs from six zoonotic out-  
9 breaks exceeded \$80,000,000,000 and the Centers  
10 for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that  
11 there are annually 2,500,000,000 cases of zoonotic  
12 infections globally, resulting in 2,700,000 deaths.

13 (3) There are also immense effects on the agri-  
14 culture sector. In 2014 and 2015, a high pathogenic  
15 avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak in the United  
16 States led to the cull of nearly 50,000,000 birds,  
17 and imposed up to approximately \$3,300,000,000 in  
18 losses for poultry and egg farmers, animal feed pro-  
19 ducers, baked good production, and other related in-  
20 dustries.

21 (4) Public health preparedness depends on agri-  
22 culture in a variety of ways. For example, a wide  
23 range of vaccines, including those for influenza, yel-  
24 low fever, rabies, and measles-mumps-rubella  
25 (MMR), are primarily cultivated in poultry eggs.

1 Egg shortages resulting from zoonotic disease out-  
2 breaks could impose serious risks to vaccine manu-  
3 facturing efforts.

4 (5) It is estimated that approximately 80 per-  
5 cent of potential pathogens likely to be used in bio-  
6 terrorism or biowarfare are common zoonotic patho-  
7 gens.

8 (6) While existing Federal Government initia-  
9 tives related to One Health span multiple agencies,  
10 including the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
11 vention One Health office and the Department of  
12 Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection  
13 Services' One Health Coordination Center, addi-  
14 tional interagency coordination is necessary to help  
15 better prevent, prepare for, and respond to zoonotic  
16 disease outbreaks.

17 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY ONE HEALTH PROGRAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, the  
19 Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Sec-  
20 retary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-  
21 retaries”), in coordination with the United States Agency  
22 for International Development, the Environmental Protec-  
23 tion Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the  
24 Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce,  
25 and other departments and agencies as appropriate, shall

1 develop, publish, and submit to Congress a national One  
2 Health Framework (referred to in this Act as the “frame-  
3 work”) for coordinated Federal Activities under the One  
4 Health Program.

5 (b) NATIONAL ONE HEALTH FRAMEWORK.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries,  
8 in cooperation with the United States Agency for  
9 International Development, the Environmental Pro-  
10 tection Agency, the Department of Homeland Secu-  
11 rity, the Department of Defense, the Department of  
12 Commerce, and other departments and agencies as  
13 appropriate, shall develop, publish, and submit to  
14 Congress a One Health Framework (referred to in  
15 this section as the “framework”) for coordinated  
16 Federal activities under the One Health Program.

17 (2) CONTENTS OF FRAMEWORK.—The frame-  
18 work described in paragraph (1) shall describe exist-  
19 ing efforts and contain recommendations for build-  
20 ing upon and complementing the activities of the  
21 Department of the Interior, the Centers for Disease  
22 Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Admin-  
23 istration, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
24 Preparedness and Response, the Department of Ag-  
25 riculture, the United States Agency for International

1 Development, the Environmental Protection Agency,  
2 the National Institutes of Health, the Department of  
3 Homeland Security, and other departments and  
4 agencies, as appropriate, and shall—

5 (A) assess, identify, and describe, as ap-  
6 propriate, existing activities of Federal agencies  
7 and departments under the One Health Pro-  
8 gram and consider whether all relevant agencies  
9 are adequately represented;

10 (B) for the 10-year period beginning in the  
11 year the framework is submitted, establish spe-  
12 cific Federal goals and priorities that most ef-  
13 fectively advance—

14 (i) scientific understanding of the con-  
15 nections between human, animal, and envi-  
16 ronmental health;

17 (ii) coordination and collaboration be-  
18 tween agencies involved in the framework  
19 including sharing data and information,  
20 engaging in joint fieldwork, and engaging  
21 in joint laboratory studies related to One  
22 Health;

23 (iii) identification of priority zoonotic  
24 diseases and priority areas of study;

1 (iv) surveillance of priority zoonotic  
2 diseases and their transmission between  
3 animals and humans;

4 (v) prevention of priority zoonotic dis-  
5 eases and their transmission between ani-  
6 mals and humans;

7 (vi) protocol development to improve  
8 joint outbreak response to and recovery  
9 from zoonotic disease outbreaks in animals  
10 and humans; and

11 (vii) workforce development to prevent  
12 and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks  
13 in animals and humans;

14 (C) describe specific activities required to  
15 achieve the goals and priorities described in  
16 subparagraph (B), and propose a timeline for  
17 achieving these goals;

18 (D) identify and expand partnerships, as  
19 appropriate, among Federal agencies, States,  
20 Indian tribes, academic institutions, nongovern-  
21 mental organizations, and private entities in  
22 order to develop new approaches for reducing  
23 hazards to human and animal health and to  
24 strengthen understanding of the value of an in-  
25 tegrated approach under the One Health Pro-

1           gram to addressing public health threats in a  
2           manner that prevents duplication;

3           (E) identify best practices related to State  
4           and local-level research coordination, field ac-  
5           tivities, and disease outbreak preparedness, re-  
6           sponse, and recovery related to One Health; and

7           (F) provide recommendations to Congress  
8           regarding additional action or legislation that  
9           may be required to assist in establishing the  
10          One Health Program.

11          (3) ADDENDUM.—Not later than 3 years after  
12          the creation of the framework, the Secretaries, in co-  
13          ordination with the agencies described in paragraph  
14          (1), shall submit to Congress an addendum to the  
15          framework that describes the progress made in ad-  
16          vancing the activities described in the framework.

17          (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
18          out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
19          such sums as may be necessary.

20          **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT.**

21          Not later than 2 years after the date of the submis-  
22          sion of the addendum under section 3(b)(3), the Comp-  
23          troller General of the United States shall submit to Con-  
24          gress a report that—

1           (1) details existing collaborative efforts between  
2           the Department of the Interior, the Centers for Dis-  
3           ease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug  
4           Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the  
5           United States Agency for International Develop-  
6           ment, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Na-  
7           tional Institutes of Health, the Department of  
8           Homeland Security, and other departments and  
9           agencies to prevent and respond to zoonotic disease  
10          outbreaks in animals and humans; and

11          (2) contains an evaluation of the framework  
12          and the specific activities requested to achieve the  
13          framework.

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