

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6966

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in cooperation with the Biodefense Steering Committee, to clarify the national biodefense strategy and associated implementation plan, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2020

Mr. CROW (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, and Ms. JACKSON LEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in cooperation with the Biodefense Steering Committee, to clarify the national biodefense strategy and associated implementation plan, 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 “Responsibility and Ac-
5 countability in Strategic Pandemic/Biodefense Planning
6 Act of 2020” or the “RASPP Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF NATIONAL BIODEFENSE STRAT-**
2 **EGY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services, in cooperation with the Biodefense
5 Steering Committee, shall clarify the national biodefense
6 strategy and associated implementation plan developed
7 under section 1086 of the National Defense Authorization
8 Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104) to clearly docu-
9 ment agreed-upon processes, roles, and responsibilities for
10 making and enforcing enterprise-wide decisions.

11 (b) SPECIFIC CLARIFICATIONS.—In carrying out sub-
12 section (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services
13 shall work with the head of each agency participating in
14 the Biodefense Steering Committee, including the Admin-
15 istrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,
16 to—

17 (1) enter into a memorandum of understanding,
18 or take such other action as is necessary, to describe
19 the roles and responsibilities of the Federal depart-
20 ments and agencies, including internal and external
21 coordination procedures, in identifying and sharing
22 information, as described in section 1086(b)(4) of
23 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
24 Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104(b)(4));

25 (2) clarify roles, responsibilities, and processes
26 for decision making that involves shifting resources

1 across agency boundaries to more effectively or effi-
2 ciently address enterprise-wide risk;

3 (3) prepare an inventory and assessment of all
4 existing strategies, plans, policies, laws, and inter-
5 agency agreements with respect to biodefense;

6 (4) establish a resource plan to staff, support,
7 and sustain the efforts of the Biodefense Coordina-
8 tion Team;

9 (5) clearly document guidance and methods for
10 analyzing the data collected from agencies to include
11 non-Federal resources and capabilities; and

12 (6) not later than 90 days after the date of en-
13 actment of this Act, report to the appropriate con-
14 gressional committees on possible implementation
15 strategies, that will effectively and efficiently en-
16 hance information-sharing activities on biosurveil-
17 lance data integration as identified in the national
18 biodefense strategy and associated implementation
19 plan described in subsection (a).

20 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
21 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
22 sional committees” means the following:

23 (1) The Committees on Armed Services of the
24 House of Representatives and the Senate.

1 (2) The Committees on Appropriations of the
2 House of Representatives and the Senate.

3 (3) The Committee on Energy and Commerce
4 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
5 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the
6 Senate.

7 (4) The Committee on Homeland Security of
8 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
9 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
10 Senate.

11 (5) The Committee on Agriculture of the House
12 of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
13 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

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