

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2118

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## AN ACT

To authorize United States participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Securing America  
3 From Epidemics Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Due to increasing population and popu-  
7 lation density, human mobility, and ecological  
8 change, emerging infectious diseases pose a real and  
9 growing threat to global health security.

10 (2) While vaccines can be the most effective  
11 tools to protect against infectious disease, the ab-  
12 sence of vaccines for a new or emerging infectious  
13 disease with epidemic potential is a major health se-  
14 curity threat globally, posing catastrophic potential  
15 human and economic costs.

16 (3) The COVID–19 pandemic has infected more  
17 than 119,960,700 individuals and has killed at least  
18 2,656,822 people worldwide, and it is likely that un-  
19 reported cases and deaths are significant.

20 (4) Even regional outbreaks can have enormous  
21 human costs and substantially disrupt the global  
22 economy and cripple regional economies. The 2014  
23 Ebola outbreak in West Africa killed more than  
24 11,000 and cost \$2,800,000,000 in losses in the af-  
25 fected countries alone.

1           (5) While the need for vaccines to address  
2           emerging epidemic threats is acute, markets to drive  
3           the necessary development of vaccines to address  
4           them—a complex and expensive undertaking—are  
5           very often critically absent. Also absent are mecha-  
6           nisms to ensure access to those vaccines by those  
7           who need them when they need them.

8           (6) To address this global vulnerability and the  
9           deficit of political commitment, institutional capac-  
10          ity, and funding, in 2017, several countries and pri-  
11          vate partners launched the Coalition for Epidemic  
12          Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). CEPI’s mission  
13          is to stimulate, finance, and coordinate development  
14          of vaccines for high-priority, epidemic-potential  
15          threats in cases where traditional markets do not  
16          exist or cannot create sufficient demand.

17          (7) Through funding of partnerships, CEPI  
18          seeks to bring priority vaccines candidates through  
19          the end of phase II clinical trials, as well as support  
20          vaccine platforms that can be rapidly deployed  
21          against emerging pathogens.

22          (8) CEPI supported the manufacturing of the  
23          United States-developed Moderna COVID–19 vac-  
24          cine during its Phase 1 clinical trial, and CEPI has

1 initiated at least 12 partnerships to develop vaccines  
2 against COVID–19.

3 (9) CEPI is co-leading COVAX, the vaccines  
4 pillar of the ACT–Accelerator, which is a global col-  
5 laboration to quickly produce and equitably dis-  
6 tribute safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics  
7 for COVID–19.

8 (10) Support for and participation in CEPI is  
9 an important part of the United States own health  
10 security and biodefense and is in the national inter-  
11 est, complementing the work of many Federal agen-  
12 cies and providing significant value through global  
13 partnership and burden-sharing.

14 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR UNITED STATES PARTICIPA-**  
15 **TION.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The United States is hereby au-  
17 thorized to participate in the Coalition for Epidemic Pre-  
18 paredness Innovations (“Coalition”).

19 (b) **DESIGNATION.**—The President is authorized to  
20 designate an employee of the relevant Federal department  
21 or agency providing the majority of United States con-  
22 tributions to the Coalition, who should demonstrate knowl-  
23 edge and experience in the fields of development and pub-  
24 lic health, epidemiology, or medicine, to serve—

1           (1) on the Investors Council of the Coalition;  
2           and

3           (2) if nominated by the President, on the Board  
4           of Directors of the Coalition, as a representative of  
5           the United States.

6           (c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180  
7           days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Presi-  
8           dent shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-  
9           mittees a report that includes the following:

10           (1) The United States planned contributions to  
11           the Coalition and the mechanisms for United States  
12           participation in such Coalition.

13           (2) The manner and extent to which the United  
14           States shall participate in the governance of the Co-  
15           alition.

16           (3) How participation in the Coalition supports  
17           relevant United States Government strategies and  
18           programs in health security and biodefense, includ-  
19           ing—

20                   (A) the Global Health Security Strategy  
21                   required by section 7058(c)(3) of division K of  
22                   the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018  
23                   (Public Law 115–141);

24                   (B) the applicable revision of the National  
25                   Biodefense Strategy required by section 1086 of

1 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fis-  
2 cal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104); and

3 (C) any other relevant decision-making  
4 process for policy, planning, and spending in  
5 global health security, biodefense, or vaccine  
6 and medical countermeasures research and de-  
7 velopment.

8 (d) UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS.—Amounts au-  
9 thorized to be appropriated under chapters 1 and 10 of  
10 part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance  
11 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) are authorized to  
12 be made available for United States contributions to the  
13 Coalition.

14 (e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—  
15 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-  
16 mittees” means—

17 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the  
18 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
19 resentatives; and

1           (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and  
2           the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

Passed the House of Representatives July 20, 2021.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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