

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2118

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.