

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November , 2022

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy,

The undersigned organizations represent the diversity of our nation's leading healthcare professionals and industry partners including physicians, scientists, patients, pharmacists, physician assistants, nurses, clinical laboratory professionals, infection preventionists, dentists, medical supply manufacturers and distributors, and drug and device manufacturers. We write to strongly urge you to include key provisions of S. 3799, the Prepare for and Respond to Existing Viruses, Emerging New Threats, and Pandemics Act (PREVENT Pandemics Act) in any final legislative package this year. These provisions are essential to ensuring that our nation's public health, medical preparedness and response systems are fortified to combat ongoing and future public health emergencies.

Priority provisions that we urge you to consider for an end-of-year legislative package include the following:

- The BIO Preparedness Workforce Pilot Program, which would incentivize health care professionals to pursue careers in infectious disease (ID) and bio-preparedness in underserved communities and health professional shortage areas. As debt for medical education and training is a cause for people not to pursue a careers in these low-paying fields, the loan repayment program would engage people to join this important workforce;
- The Tracking Pathogens Act, which would strengthen and expand the use of pathogen genomic sequencing and surveillance activities in public health and in partnership with academic institutions, clinical laboratories and private sector entities;
- Provisions that improve public health preparedness and response capabilities, accelerate research and medical product development;
- Provisions that strengthen the medical product supply chain in order to mitigate shortages; and,
- Provisions that address the health inequities that contribute to the disparities experienced by marginalized populations and underserved urban and rural communities during public health emergencies.

We must act now to lay the groundwork for our domestic security and preparedness. These provisions in PREVENT will strengthen state and federal preparedness, including through enhanced bio-surveillance and genome sequencing; address health disparities and ensure equity in pandemic planning and response both rural and urban communities; support research and countermeasures; and address critical resource allocation issues and fortify the supply chain supply issues

Finally, the success of our nation's pandemic preparedness efforts will hinge upon all communities having a health care workforce with expertise in bio-preparedness and infectious diseases and in deploying the diagnostic, prevention and treatment tools necessary to combat public health challenges and threats. Over the past several years, members of our organizations have been on the frontlines of pandemics, epidemics, and outbreaks including COVID-19, HIV, sexually-transmitted infections, viral hepatitis, Zika, Ebola, and

monkeypox even as they address other pressing health issues. Frontline health care workers, patients and communities are relying on you to better prepare the United States for the next pandemic. A well-trained and expanded health workforce is critical for ensuring rapid high-quality response which would reduce avoidable adverse outcomes including deaths. We appreciate your continued leadership on these critical issues and look forward to working with you to enact these key provisions of PREVENT this year.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Richard Burr
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rogers