

House Energy and Commerce Committee – Health Subcommittee

Markup of Legislation to Reauthorize the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act

On July 13, 2023, the [House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee](#) advanced legislation to reauthorize the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). Earlier this year, IDSA provided [feedback](#) to outline priorities and recommendations for PAHPA reauthorization, some of which is reflected in the bills outlined below. The following two bills contain provisions to reauthorize programs in PAHPA. The Subcommittee passed additional bills that relate to preparedness (see chart below). IDSA continues advocating on other relevant priorities not sufficiently addressed in PAHPA reauthorization, including strengthening the ID workforce, combating AMR and improving data collection and surveillance.

[H.R. 4421](#), the Preparing for All Hazards and Pathogens Reauthorization Act

- The bill, introduced by Rep. Hudson (R-NC), would reauthorize current programs to support public health security and all-hazards response, including programs administered by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response such as the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), and Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE).
- The bill also includes provisions aimed at enhancing transparency across the agencies supporting targeted research into certain medical countermeasures (MCM) and streamlining emergency response authorities. It also improves visibility and planning for supply chain availability, as recommended by IDSA.
- The bill creates a PHEMCE advisory committee made up of experts in MCM development, stockpiling and replenishment, supply chain and medical disaster planning, preparedness, response, or recovery.
- The bill would also create a diagnostic testing preparedness plan, in part in response to IDSA recommendations to strengthen testing capacity during public health emergencies. The plan is due one year after enactment to address chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents, and address public-private coordination. The plan is required to be updated every 3 years.

[H.R. 4420](#), the Preparedness and Response Reauthorization Act

- The bill, introduced by Rep. Hudson (R-NC), would reauthorize certain programs related to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and includes provisions aimed at efforts to support the distribution of medical countermeasures, control of biological agents and mosquito-borne diseases, and epidemiological monitoring.
- The bill also requires a report on the federal government's collection and sharing of public health data to respond to public health emergencies involving infectious disease outbreaks or biological threats, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and recommendations to address the collection and sharing of public health data.

The Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act was first enacted after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and anthrax attacks on Capitol Hill in 2002 to address the need for greater preparedness for public health threats, including infectious diseases outbreaks. It has been reauthorized roughly every 5 years. The legislation passed this week in the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee was authored and agreed to on a partisan basis with only Republicans voting in favor.

HR 4421 and HR 4420 provide a continuation of the public health emergency preparedness programs at CDC, including grants to state health departments for all hazards preparedness as well as the hospital preparedness program which supports health care coalitions in each state. It also supports the Strategic National Stockpile and programs aimed at development of medical countermeasures administered by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee is conducting a parallel process to reauthorize PAHPA, which is expected to contain more opportunities for bipartisan agreement.

Additional legislation passed by the Committee is listed below. Many of the more controversial provisions included in bills listed below are not likely to be advanced in the Senate.

Please contact [Sara Hoopchuk](#), IDSA Senior Public Policy Coordinator, with any questions.

Bill	Sponsors	Notes
H.R. 4529 , the Public Health Guidance Transparency and Accountability Act	Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires guidance documents to be developed with public participation. • HHS Secretary is permitted to revise guidance
HR 4381 , the PHE Congressional Review Act of 2023	Reps. Greg Murphy (R-NC) and Brett Guthrie (R-KY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six months after declaration by the Secretary of a public health emergency and every 6 months following, Congress will meet to consider a joint resolution to determine whether the PHE should be terminated.
HR 3813 , the CDC Leadership Accountability Act	Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires CDC Director to be confirmed by the Senate, starting in 2023.