

Submitted by electronic mail

November 2, 2023

Representative Rick Larsen
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Larsen,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write in strong support of H.R. 5846, the Protecting America from Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza Act (the Influenza Act), which you recently reintroduced. We thank you for your leadership in raising awareness of influenza's public health, economic, and national security impacts and working to modernize the federal programs that address influenza preparedness and response.

Your legislation comes at an important time, as the 2023-24 influenza season begins in the United States. As you know, last year's season began early and spread quickly, resulting in tens of thousands of fatalities – including more than 170 children. Throughout history, flu has also caused devastating pandemics. The world continues to grapple with the worst recorded outbreak of avian influenza, including spillover to mammals – presenting the threat of mutation allowing human-to-human transmission.

The Influenza Act takes important steps to modernize America's seasonal and pandemic influenza infrastructure, including strengthening and diversifying vaccine development, manufacturing, and supply chains; promoting innovative approaches and the use of new technologies to detect, prevent, and respond to influenza; increasing vaccine, therapeutics, and diagnostics access and coverage across all populations; and authorizing sustainable funding for the influenza ecosystem. Strategies that improve seasonal influenza outcomes will also improve pandemic readiness for flu or other infectious disease threats.

We should not accept the status quo when it comes to flu deaths. We can, and must, do better. The federal government has a critical role in both seasonal and pandemic flu preparedness and response. Now is the time for Congress to take action to improve these programs. We are committed to working with you to enact proactive federal policy changes to stop deaths from both seasonal and pandemic flu in our lifetime.

Sincerely,



Alliance for Biosecurity

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Big Cities Health Coalition

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

Coalition to Stop Flu (representing Alvogen, American Heart Association, American Society for Microbiology, Association of Immunization Managers, Association of Public Health Laboratories, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, BD, CSL Seqirus, Families Fighting Flu, Genentech, GSK, Healthcare Distribution Alliance, Immunize.org, Infectious Diseases Society of America, Inovio, National Association of City and County Health Officials, National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Pfizer, Sanofi, Trust for America's Health, Vaccinate Your Family, Vir Biotechnology)

Global Health Technologies Coalition

Institute for Progress

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

National Network of Public Health Institutes

Resolve to Save Lives

The Medical Countermeasures Coalition