

Submitted by electronic mail

December 20, 2022

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 the Protecting America from Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza Act (the Influenza Act), H.R. 9476, you recently introduced. We thank you for your leadership, as the United States grapples with what may be the worst flu season in over a decade.

The Influenza Act is the first comprehensive effort to enact proactive federal policy changes to stop deaths from both seasonal and pandemic flu in our lifetime. We know that in an average year flu causes tens of thousands of deaths in the United States, and throughout history flu has caused devastating pandemics. Strategies that improve seasonal influenza outcomes will also improve pandemic readiness.

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

We should not accept the status quo when it comes to flu deaths. We can 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 programs like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveillance, public messaging, and assistance to state, local, territorial and tribal entities, as well as the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) research, development and stockpiling of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics for pandemic preparedness.

We look forward to working with you in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress to reintroduce and advance this critical legislation and to enact proactive policy solutions to stop deaths from seasonal and pandemic influenza.



Sincerely,

Alliance for Biosecurity

Association of Immunization Managers

Big Cities Health Coalition

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

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

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

Resolve to Save Lives

Seattle and King County Public Health

Southern Nevada Health District