



Global Health Security Act (H.R.391)

The Problems: As more than 500,000 Americans and two and a half million people across the world have died from COVID-19, the U.S. needs to take the lead and invest in global responses to prevent future pandemics. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA-11) stated, “**diseases do not respect borders, and global health crises have immense security, economic and humanitarian consequences**”. Rep. Connolly also explained that many nations are “**underprepared to manage or control outbreaks**”. In addition:

- Children in low-income countries are over **100 times more likely** to die from infectious diseases.
- Epidemics and pandemics disrupt trade and tourism, totaling about **18% of the global economy**.
- The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) stated, “national security and public experts agree that infectious diseases pose a **substantial direct and indirect threat to U.S. interests**”. Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH-1) also highlighted that “**global health security is national security**”.

The Solution: The bipartisan Global Health Security Act is crucial to combating COVID-19. Overall, the bill will increase the U.S. government’s efforts to support epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevent threats of infectious disease outbreaks by:

- establishing a **Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Interagency Review Council** that will provide policy-level recommendations to participating agencies on GHSA-specific measurable goals, objectives and implementation measures.
- strengthening interagency, multi-sectoral engagement by requiring a representative from **15 executive agencies** on the Council.
- coordinating across GHSA national plans and partners to **resolve challenges** in achieving GHSA commitments to prepare for and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
- requiring an **annual report** submitted to the President and appropriate congressional committees on **progress achieved** and recommendations needed to **resolve, mitigate or otherwise address challenges**.

Status: The House Foreign Affairs Committee passed the Global Health Security Act on March 25, 2021.

Previous versions of the bill (H.R.7290 and H.R.2166) gained bipartisan support in the 115th and 116th Congress. The Obama Administration launched the Global Health Security Agenda in 2014 and **issued an Executive Order** to advance global health security. The Trump Administration also included global health security as part of their National Security, Intelligence and Biodefense Strategy.

Organization Endorsements: The following organizations recognize the need for this bill: *the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), the American Society for Microbiology, ChildFund International, Global Citizen, Global Health Council, International Medical Corps, IntraHealth International, John Hopkins Center for Health Security, Management Science for Health (MSH), Nuclear Threat Initiative, the ONE Campaign, PATH, The Borgen Project and the Sabin Vaccine Institute.*

Supporters: The Global Health Security Act was introduced by Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11) and Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH-1) along with 55 additional co-sponsors in the House.