



Global Health Security Act (H.R.2166/ S.3656)

The Problems: As the global number of deaths from the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to rise, 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 percent 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**.

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

Cost: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that H.R.2166 would cost \$1 million over the 2020-2025 period and that spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Supporters: The Global Health Security Act was introduced by Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11) and Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH-1) along with three additional original co-sponsors in the House. The bill was introduced by Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) in the Senate.