We Need $30 Billion for Pandemic Preparedness

It is essential to fully fund President Biden’s $30 billion pandemic preparedness request in the American Jobs Plan. This funding must be reflected in the topline number given to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Without this funding, if another pandemic hit us tomorrow, we could be as ill-prepared as we were for COVID-19.

While there was an enormous federal investment to respond to COVID-19, there is almost no federal investment to prepare us for the next pandemic, and much of what was originally allocated for future pandemics has since been repurposed to respond to COVID-19 and the growing threat from the Delta variant.

Given the massive human and economic costs of the coronavirus pandemic, these investments have the largest return on investment of any policy within the package. As a recent op-ed from Dr. Tom Friden and Senator Tom Daschle stated, “$30 billion to protect Americans from future pandemics pales in comparison to the cost of responding to the next pandemic.”

In order to deliver on President Biden’s pandemic preparedness plan, Guarding Against Pandemics recommends that the $30 billion is allocated as follows:

**$9 Billion**
- for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

**$14 Billion**
- for BARDA and ASPR*

**$6.5 Billion**
- for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

**$500 Million**
- for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

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*Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

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**THIS FUNDING WOULD GO TO:**

- **Meeting President Biden’s goal of a vaccine in 100 days** following a new outbreak by:
  - Developing, testing, and approving prototype vaccines for all known families of pathogens of pandemic potential, as championed by Dr. Anthony Fauci.
  - Developing universal vaccines for pathogens most likely to cause a pandemic (e.g. influenza).
  - Increasing production capabilities for platform technologies (e.g. mRNA), which use the same processes for manufacturing, formulation and delivery of a drug or vaccine against multiple different pathogens, including new ones.

- **Strengthening manufacturing and supply chains** by increasing manufacturing capacity for antivirals, monoclonal antibodies, diagnostics, and vaccines, as well as onshoring production of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

- **Storing personal protective equipment and other critical medical supplies in advance** through our nation’s strategic national stockpile.

- **Ensuring faster tests** by developing and fielding tests including point-of-person and minimally invasive diagnostics for emerging and future outbreaks in advance.

- **Discovering and developing treatments** such as broad spectrum antivirals and rapid monoclonal antibodies.

- **Training personnel** for epidemic and pandemic response.

- **Creating an outbreak early warning system** to track endemic diseases and rapidly identify an emerging biological threat by developing, manufacturing, and implementing technologies such as metagenomic sequencing and wastewater surveillance.

- **Innovating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** so that it is reusable, sterilizable, and personalized.

- **Ensure biosafety and biosecurity keep pace** with innovations in biotechnology.