

August 25, 2010

Lisa Kaplowitz, Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Office of Policy and Planning,
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW.,
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Seeking Public Comment on Draft National Health Security Strategy Biennial Implementation Plan

Dear Ms. Kaplowitz

The Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Department of Health and Human Services' Draft National Health Security Strategy Biennial Implementation Plan.¹ BIO represents more than 1,100 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of innovative healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products.

BIO represents an industry that is devoted to discovering new drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tools that can aid in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incident. BIO membership includes many developers and manufacturers who have worked closely with the public health and security communities to support policies that help ensure access to innovative and life-saving medical countermeasures for our national security. Therefore, we continue to monitor those policies that could both positively and negatively impact the development of these important products.

BIO supports the draft Biennial Implementation Plan's goal to rapidly develop and adopt countermeasures that mitigate health consequences of a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attack. To this end, the Plan should strive to achieve end-to-end preparedness with respect to the development, stockpiling and deployment of medical countermeasures. A comprehensive plan should include realistic timeframes and mechanisms for the appropriate administration and distribution of specific countermeasures.

BIO looks forward to participating in further discussions regarding all of the critical elements of preparedness. Continued investments in the development of new medical countermeasures, new methods for detection and surveillance as well as distribution mechanisms will add significantly to the nation's response capabilities. The rapid detection of

¹ 75 Fed Reg. 43528 (July 26, 2010)

health threats and timely distribution of safe and effective medical countermeasures are pivotal to our nation's ability to respond to any biological threats.

Conclusion

BIO appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft National Health Security Strategy Biennial Implementation Plan. We look forward to continuing to work with HHS to address these critical issues in the future. Please feel free to contact me at 202-962-6664 if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

With Sincerest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phyllis A. Arthur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Phyllis" being more prominent and the last name "Arthur" following in a similar style.

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