114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
S. 1915

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
AUGUST 3, 2015
Ms. Ayotte (for herself, Mr. Booker, and Mr. Coons) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act”.

SEC. 2. PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.

(a) Anthrax Preparedness.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 526. ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS.

"(a) PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.—For the purpose of domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall—

"(1) establish a program to provide anthrax vaccines from the strategic national stockpile under section 319F–2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6b(a)) that will be nearing the end of their labeled dates of use at the time such vaccines are to be administered to emergency response providers who are at high risk of exposure to anthrax and who voluntarily consent to such administration;

"(2) establish any necessary logistical and tracking systems to facilitate making the vaccines described in paragraph (1) so available;

"(3) distribute disclosures regarding associated benefits and risks to end users; and

"(4) conduct outreach to educate emergency response providers about the voluntary program."
“(b) THREAT ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) support homeland security-focused risk analysis and risk assessments of the threats posed by anthrax from an act of terror;

“(2) leverage existing and emerging homeland security intelligence capabilities and structures to enhance prevention, protection, response, and recovery efforts with respect to an anthrax terror attack; and

“(3) share information and provide tailored analytical support on threats posed by anthrax to State, local, and tribal authorities, as well as other national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting at the end of the items relating to title V the following new item:

“Sec. 526. Anthrax preparedness.”.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pre-event vaccination program authorized under section 526(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a pilot program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency
response providers as so authorized. The duration of the pilot program shall be 24 months from the date the initial vaccines are administered to participants.

(2) PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS.—Prior to implementing the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(A) establish a communication platform for the pilot program;

(B) establish education and training modules for the pilot program;

(C) conduct economic analysis of the pilot program; and

(D) create a logistical platform for the anthrax vaccine request process under the pilot program.

(3) LOCATION.—In carrying out the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall select emergency response providers based in not less than 2 States for participation in the pilot program.

(4) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to each emergency response provider who participates in the pilot program under this subsection disclosures and educational materials regarding the asso-
ciated benefits and risks of any vaccine provided
under the pilot program and of exposure to anthrax.

(5) **Report.**—

(A) **In general.**—Not later than 1 year
after the date of enactment of this Act, and an-
nually thereafter until 1 year after the comple-
tion of the pilot program, the Secretary of
Homeland Security shall submit to the Com-
mittee on Homeland Security and the Com-
mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House
of Representatives and the Committee on
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
of the Senate a report on the progress and re-
sults of the pilot program, including—

(i) the percentage of eligible emer-
gency response providers, as determined by
each pilot location, that volunteer to par-
ticipate;

(ii) the degree to which participants
obtain necessary vaccinations, as appro-
priate; and

(iii) recommendations to improve ini-
tial and recurrent participation in the pilot
program.
(B) REQUIRED PLAN.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include a plan under which the Secretary plans to continue the program to provide vaccines to emergency response providers under section 526(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a).

(6) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin implementing the pilot program under this subsection.