

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1560

To strengthen United States capabilities in environmental detection and the monitoring of biological agents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 17, 2001

Mr. AKAKA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To strengthen United States capabilities in environmental detection and the monitoring of biological agents.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Biological Agent-Envi-
5 ronmental Detection Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The threat of bioterrorism depends on the
9 ability to produce and distribute biological agents
10 that cause illness or death. A bioterrorism attack,

1 once executed, requires containment and treatment
2 that relies on primary-care provider capabilities as
3 well as information and communication infrastruc-
4 ture.

5 (2) Early detection of a biological threat will
6 minimize the number of people exposed to the agent
7 and the extent that the agent or disease will spread.

8 (3) Preventative measures that consider produc-
9 tion, processing and distribution of biological or
10 chemical agents could significantly reduce the threat
11 of bioterrorism.

12 (4) New tools capable of detecting small quan-
13 tities of infectious agents in food, water, air, and
14 other vectors are needed, as well as a library of the
15 genomic signatures of unique agents.

16 **SEC. 3. NOVEL DETECTION AND SURVEILLANCE TOOLS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services, in conjunction with the Secretary of De-
19 fense, the Secretary of Energy, the Director of the Na-
20 tional Science Foundation, the Administrator of the Envi-
21 ronmental Protection Agency, and representatives from in-
22 dustry, shall form an interagency research task force to
23 encourage non-duplicative, public-private research relating
24 to environmental monitoring and detection tools with re-
25 spect to biological agents.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health
3 and Human Services, to be used in accordance with the
4 advice and recommendations of the task force established
5 under subsection (a)—

6 (1) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and such
7 sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal
8 year, for the purpose of encouraging cooperative
9 agreements between the Federal Government and in-
10 dustry or academic laboratory centers, as well as en-
11 couraging research into improving methods of de-
12 tecting common pathogens and to test new detection
13 technologies under variable conditions;

14 (2) \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and such
15 sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal
16 year, for the purpose of pursuing new technologies,
17 approaches and programs to identify clandestine lab-
18 oratory locations;

19 (3) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and such
20 sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal
21 year, for the purpose of investigating and developing
22 technologies to identify possible biological or chem-
23 ical attacks using atmospheric remote detection tech-
24 nologies; and

1 (4) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and such
2 sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal
3 year, for the purpose of establishing a means of test-
4 ing, verifying and calibrating new detection and sur-
5 veillance tools and techniques developed by the pri-
6 vate sector.

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