

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1912

To establish a global network for avian influenza surveillance among wild birds nationally and internationally to combat the growing threat of bird flu, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 24, 2005

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

A BILL

To establish a global network for avian influenza surveillance among wild birds nationally and internationally to combat the growing threat of bird flu, and for other purposes.

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 “Global Network for
5 Avian Influenza Surveillance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the ongoing panzootic of highly pathogenic
2 avian influenza strain H5N1 in Asia and Eurasia is
3 a threat to global human health and the global poul-
4 try industry;

5 (2) the HPAI virus is capable of causing mas-
6 sive avian die-offs, and response can easily involve
7 the culling of tens of millions of domestic poultry or
8 domestic waterfowl, resulting in significant economic
9 losses;

10 (3) the fatality rate due to infection in humans
11 may be 30 to 50 percent or more;

12 (4) recent outbreaks in 2005 of H5N1 in water-
13 fowl in western China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Roma-
14 nia, and Turkey suggest that the virus may have en-
15 tered the Central Asian Flyway and may con-
16 sequently spread throughout central and southern
17 Asia, Europe, and Africa, as well as spanning the
18 Arctic to reach North America;

19 (5) it has long been known that wild birds are
20 a reservoir host for avian influenza viruses world-
21 wide;

22 (6) the 1918 pandemic, the most lethal of the
23 3 pandemics that killed over 40,000,000 people
24 worldwide, was caused by an influenza virus that ini-
25 tially jumped directly from birds to humans and sub-

1 sequently evolved an ability to transmit from
2 human-to-human;

3 (7) this precedent for an avian influenza virus
4 to transmit directly from birds to humans, then
5 spread among humans, significantly raises the con-
6 cern about the current H5N1 influenza strain;

7 (8) increased surveillance, including on migra-
8 tory birds, is critical to controlling avian influenza;

9 (9) the capacity to proactively detect the
10 threats could result in significantly improved disease
11 prediction and prevention capabilities;

12 (10) international wildlife health surveillance
13 does not clearly fall under the jurisdiction of any
14 Federal or international agency;

15 (11) there is a continued inability to share real-
16 time data across the human, agricultural, wildlife,
17 and veterinary agencies on zoonotic threats;

18 (12) while surveillance at domestic poultry and
19 domestic waterfowl production facilities and farms is
20 an immediate and on-going monitoring need and is
21 being supported through relevant agencies, surveil-
22 lance in wild bird populations that may have been
23 exposed to the virus has now become a critical com-
24 ponent to determine the spread of the virus, imple-

1 ment control measures, and protect human, live-
2 stock, and wildlife health;

3 (13) monitoring and surveillance of wild migra-
4 tory and resident water birds are critically important
5 to identifying all strains of influenza viruses in wild
6 birds as a library of possible genotypes, determining
7 their role in spread of the virus, and anticipating
8 where outbreaks may occur to enhance preparedness;
9 and

10 (14) improving surveillance of wildlife health
11 around the world would close significant jurisdic-
12 tional and scientific gaps in current global influenza
13 preparedness.

14 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

15 The purpose of this Act is to establish a Global Net-
16 work for Avian Influenza Surveillance—

17 (1) to more rapidly and efficiently detect,
18 verify, and report on the presence of infectious dis-
19 eases, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza, in
20 migratory birds and resident waterfowl around the
21 world;

22 (2) to use information on viral strains found
23 during surveillance of wild birds to better delineate
24 any mutations in the virus that may be detectable
25 within wild bird populations;

1 (3) to use information on when and where
2 HPAI and other pathogens of concern are identified
3 in migratory birds—

4 (A) to better guide preparedness in the
5 United States and around the world; and

6 (B) to carry out a comprehensive migra-
7 tory bird disease surveillance initiative that will
8 provide regions, countries, and specific locations
9 with early warning information that will help
10 target resources toward enhancement of poultry
11 biosecurity and surveillance, heightened public
12 health vigilance, and related areas;

13 (4) to create an open access database within
14 which information on HPAI and other pathogens of
15 interest identified in migratory birds can be shared
16 as close to real time as possible;

17 (5) to protect the health and safety of United
18 States citizens and officials traveling or living
19 abroad; and

20 (6) to protect the economic interests of the
21 United States and its partners from threats to
22 health, agriculture, and natural resources.

23 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.—The term “eligi-
2 ble organization” means a nongovernmental wildlife
3 conservation organization chartered in the United
4 States with—

5 (A) extensive global wildlife health experi-
6 ence in tracking disease in wild birds, including
7 free-ranging, captive, and wild bird species;

8 (B) proven ability in identifying avian in-
9 fluenza in wild birds; and

10 (C) accredited zoological facilities in the
11 United States.

12 (2) GNAIS.—The term “GNAIS” means the
13 Global Network for Avian Influenza Surveillance es-
14 tablished under section 5(a).

15 (3) GNAIS PARTNERS.—The term “GNAIS
16 partners” means the partners of the GNAIS de-
17 scribed in section 5(c).

18 (4) HPAI.—The term “HPAI” means highly
19 pathogenic avian influenza.

20 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, act-
22 ing—

23 (A) through the Influenza Branch of the
24 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
25 and

1 (B) in partnership with an eligible organi-
2 zation.

3 **SEC. 5. GLOBAL NETWORK FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA SUR-**
4 **VEILLANCE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall offer
7 to enter into a contract with 1 or more eligible organiza-
8 tions to establish a Global Network for Avian Influenza
9 Surveillance.

10 (b) PARTNERS.—In administering the GNAIS, the
11 Secretary and the eligible organization shall collaborate
12 with appropriate—

13 (1) Federal and State agency partners, includ-
14 ing—

15 (A) the Department of Agriculture, acting
16 through—

17 (i) the Agricultural Research Service;
18 and

19 (ii) the Animal and Plant Health In-
20 spection Service;

21 (B) the Department of the Interior, acting
22 through—

23 (i) the United States Geological Sur-
24 vey; and

1 (ii) the United States Fish and Wild-
2 life Service; and

3 (C) various State wildlife agencies in the
4 United States;

5 (2) multilateral agency partners, including—

6 (A) the Food and Agriculture Organiza-
7 tion;

8 (B) the World Health Organization;

9 (C) the Office International des Epizooties,
10 the world animal health organization; and

11 (D) the World Conservation Union;

12 (3) conservation organizations with expertise in
13 international and domestic bird monitoring and sur-
14 veillance;

15 (4) accredited colleges of veterinary medicine;

16 and

17 (5) other national and international partners,
18 as necessary.

19 (c) INTERNATIONAL SURVEILLANCE.—The eligible
20 organization, in coordination with the Influenza Branch
21 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall
22 manage an international surveillance program under
23 which Federal GNAIS partners shall, and non-Federal
24 GNAIS partners are encouraged to—

1 (1) monitor and test for the presence or arrival
 2 of avian influenza and other significant avian patho-
 3 gens at important bird areas around the world and
 4 in marketplaces with intense trade in wild birds;

5 (2) use trained professionals to collect samples
 6 and other data and send samples to appropriate di-
 7 agnostic centers;

8 (3) use the GNAIS, in partnership with rel-
 9 evant agencies and organizations, for conducting—

10 (A) disease surveillance activities on migra-
 11 tory birds worldwide;

12 (B) domestic and international field inves-
 13 tigations on migratory birds;

14 (C) training and capacity-building activi-
 15 ties related to the relationships between human
 16 health, domestic animal health, and wildlife
 17 health; and

18 (D) research on methods and approaches
 19 for detection and enhanced surveillance of
 20 HPAI and other pathogens in migratory birds;
 21 and

22 (4) send samples for avian influenza testing to
 23 certified laboratories that—

24 (A) meet internationally established meth-
 25 ods standards;

1 (B) are located at—

2 (i) the Influenza Branch of the Cen-
3 ters for Disease Control and Prevention;

4 (ii) the Office International des
5 Epizooties, the world animal health organi-
6 zation;

7 (iii) the Food and Agriculture Organi-
8 zation;

9 (iv) National Veterinary Services Lab-
10 oratories of the Department of Agriculture;

11 or

12 (v) the Agricultural Research Service;

13 and

14 (C) report the findings back to the eligible
15 organization and GNAIS partners.

16 (d) NETWORK.—

17 (1) PARTNERS.—Federal GNAIS partners
18 shall, and non-Federal GNAIS partners are encour-
19 aged to, transmit information related to global dis-
20 tribution and characteristics of avian influenza to
21 the Secretary acting through the eligible organiza-
22 tion.

23 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary, acting
24 through the eligible organization, shall—

1 (A) use surveillance reports and other for-
2 mal and informal sources of information to
3 identify and investigate local disease outbreaks
4 of avian influenza, in coordination with GNAIS
5 partners;

6 (B) develop a long-term baseline of re-
7 gional data related to HPAI and pathogens in
8 migratory birds for analysis between and across
9 sites to create a system to identify when and
10 where outbreaks might occur and paths of dis-
11 persal;

12 (C) provide technical assistance for disease
13 prevention and control programs based on sci-
14 entific understanding of the relationships be-
15 tween wildlife health, domestic animal health,
16 and human health;

17 (D) provide analytical disease findings reg-
18 ularly to the Influenza Branch of the Centers
19 for Disease Control and Prevention and other
20 Federal GNAIS partners to prevent or combat
21 human diseases;

22 (E) conduct other activities as are nec-
23 essary to support the GNAIS network and
24 GNAIS partners; and

1 (F) coordinate GNAIS surveillance results
 2 at the headquarters of the eligible organization.

3 (e) DATABASE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
 5 through the eligible organization, shall manage,
 6 map, and make available on a database on the Inter-
 7 net all results and information gathered under this
 8 Act.

9 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The database shall—

10 (A) provide geographic data on wild bird
 11 populations and the movements of the popu-
 12 lations and laboratory test results; and

13 (B) be available for viewing by any Federal
 14 agency, foreign country, multilateral institution,
 15 organization, or individual.

16 (f) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall request accred-
 17 ited colleges of veterinary medicine and other GNAIS
 18 partners to train members of the GNAIS network to—

19 (1) monitor important bird areas around the
 20 world; and

21 (2) test for the presence or arrival of avian in-
 22 fluenza and other significant avian pathogens of
 23 zoonotic concern.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through
4 2010.

