

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8897

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program for the development of rapid and cost-effective medical countermeasures to pandemics, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2020

Mr. GOSAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program for the development of rapid and cost-effective medical countermeasures to pandemics, 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. PANDEMIC PREVENTION PLATFORM.**

4 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall
5 designate a lead within the Department of Defense to im-
6 plement and advance a program for the development of
7 rapid and cost-effective medical countermeasures to
8 pandemics.

1 (b) OBJECTIVES.—The Secretary shall ensure that
2 the program carries out the following within 60 days of
3 identifying a virus or other pathogen that may cause a
4 pandemic with the goal of reducing this time frame to 28
5 days:

6 (1) Grow the virus or other pathogen.

7 (2) Identify an antibody or biologic product
8 that targets the virus or other pathogen for use in
9 a medical countermeasure.

10 (3) Evolve the antibody or biologic product for
11 increased potency.

12 (4) Clinical grade product manufacturing.

13 (5) Deliver the product to patients to induce
14 protection in fewer than three days following admin-
15 istration.

16 (6) Any other objective the Secretary of De-
17 fense deems necessary.

18 (c) COLLABORATION AND INFORMATION SHARING.—

19 In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Defense—

20 (1) may collaborate with such Secretaries pur-
21 suant to the National Biodefense Strategy under
22 section 1086 of the National Defense Authorization
23 Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104);

24 (2) shall ensure that information from the pro-
25 gram is shared with such Secretaries pursuant to

1 the National Biodefense Strategy under section
2 1086 of the National Defense Authorization Act for
3 Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104); and
4 (3) through regular, structured, and close con-
5 sultation with the Secretary of Health and Human
6 Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security,
7 shall ensure that the activities of the Department of
8 Defense in carrying out the program are coordinated
9 with, complement, and do not unnecessarily dupli-
10 cate activities of other Federal agencies pursuant to
11 the National Biodefense Strategy under section
12 1086 of the National Defense Authorization Act for
13 Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104).

○