

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1903

To establish an interagency One Health Program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2019

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish an interagency One Health Program, 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 “Advancing Emergency  
5       Preparedness Through One Health Act of 2019”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) The term “One Health” reflects the inter-  
9       connectedness of human health, animal health, and  
10      the environment. As technology and population

1 growth facilitates increased interaction of human  
2 settlements with wildlife habitats and as inter-  
3 national travel and trade increases, the interface be-  
4 tween these elements will also continue to rise.

5 (2) When zoonotic diseases spillover to humans,  
6 there are often enormous health and economic costs.  
7 The World Bank estimates that, between 1997 and  
8 2009, the global costs from six zoonotic outbreaks  
9 exceeded \$80,000,000,000 and the Centers for Dis-  
10 ease Control and Prevention estimates that there are  
11 annually 2,500,000,000 cases of zoonotic infections  
12 globally, resulting in 2,700,000 deaths.

13 (3) There are also immense effects on the agri-  
14 culture sector. In 2014 and 2015, a high pathogenic  
15 avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak in the United  
16 States led to the cull of nearly 50,000,000 birds,  
17 and imposed up to approximately \$3,300,000,000 in  
18 losses for poultry and egg farmers, animal feed pro-  
19 ducers, baked good production, and other related in-  
20 dustries.

21 (4) Public health preparedness depends on agri-  
22 culture in a variety of ways. For example, a wide  
23 range of vaccines, including those for influenza, yel-  
24 low fever, rabies, and measles-mumps-rubella  
25 (MMR), are primarily cultivated in poultry eggs.

1 Egg shortages resulting from zoonotic disease out-  
2 breaks could impose serious risks to vaccine manu-  
3 facturing efforts.

4 (5) It is estimated that approximately 80 per-  
5 cent of potential pathogens likely to be used in bio-  
6 terrorism or biowarfare are common zoonotic patho-  
7 gens.

8 (6) While existing Federal Government initia-  
9 tives related to One Health span multiple agencies,  
10 including the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
11 vention One Health office and the Department of  
12 Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection  
13 Services' One Health Coordination Center, addi-  
14 tional interagency coordination is necessary to help  
15 better prevent, prepare for, and respond to zoonotic  
16 disease outbreaks.

17 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY ONE HEALTH PROGRAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
19 Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture (re-  
20 ferred to in this Act as the “Secretaries”), in coordination  
21 with the United States Agency for International Develop-  
22 ment, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Depart-  
23 ment of Homeland Security, the Department of the Inte-  
24 rior, the Department of Defense, the Department of Com-  
25 merce, and other departments and agencies as appro-

1 priate, shall develop, publish, and submit to Congress a  
2 national One Health Framework (referred to in this Act  
3 as the “framework”) for coordinated Federal Activities  
4 under the One Health Program.

5 (b) NATIONAL ONE HEALTH FRAMEWORK.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries,  
8 in cooperation with the United States Agency for  
9 International Development, the Environmental Pro-  
10 tection Agency, the Department of Homeland Secu-  
11 rity, the Department of the Interior, the Department  
12 of Defense, the Department of Commerce, and other  
13 departments and agencies as appropriate, shall de-  
14 velop, publish, and submit to Congress a One Health  
15 Framework (referred to in this section as the  
16 “framework”) for coordinated Federal activities  
17 under the One Health Program.

18 (2) CONTENTS OF FRAMEWORK.—The frame-  
19 work described in paragraph (1) shall describe exist-  
20 ing efforts and contain recommendations for build-  
21 ing upon and complementing the activities of the  
22 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the  
23 Food and Drug Administration, the Office of the As-  
24 sistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response,  
25 the Department of Agriculture, the United States

1 Agency for International Development, the Environ-  
2 mental Protection Agency, the National Institutes of  
3 Health, the Department of Homeland Security, the  
4 Department of the Interior, the Department of the  
5 Interior, and other departments and agencies, as ap-  
6 propriate, and shall—

7 (A) assess, identify, and describe, as ap-  
8 propriate, existing activities of Federal agencies  
9 and departments under the One Health Pro-  
10 gram and consider whether all relevant agencies  
11 are adequately represented;

12 (B) for the 10-year period beginning in the  
13 year the framework is submitted, establish spe-  
14 cific Federal goals and priorities that most ef-  
15 fectively advance—

16 (i) scientific understanding of the con-  
17 nections between human, animal, and envi-  
18 ronmental health;

19 (ii) coordination and collaboration be-  
20 tween agencies involved in the framework  
21 including sharing data and information,  
22 engaging in joint fieldwork, and engaging  
23 in joint laboratory studies related to One  
24 Health;

1 (iii) identification of priority zoonotic  
2 diseases and priority areas of study;

3 (iv) surveillance of priority zoonotic  
4 diseases and their transmission between  
5 animals and humans;

6 (v) prevention of priority zoonotic dis-  
7 eases and their transmission between ani-  
8 mals and humans;

9 (vi) protocol development to improve  
10 joint outbreak response to and recovery  
11 from zoonotic disease outbreaks in animals  
12 and humans; and

13 (vii) workforce development to prevent  
14 and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks  
15 in animals and humans;

16 (C) describe specific activities required to  
17 achieve the goals and priorities described in  
18 subparagraph (B), and propose a timeline for  
19 achieving these goals;

20 (D) identify and expand partnerships, as  
21 appropriate, among Federal agencies, States,  
22 Indian tribes, academic institutions, nongovern-  
23 mental organizations, and private entities in  
24 order to develop new approaches for reducing  
25 hazards to human and animal health and to

strengthen understanding of the value of an integrated approach under the One Health Program to addressing public health threats in a manner that prevents duplication;

(E) identify best practices related to State and local-level research coordination, field activities, and disease outbreak preparedness, response, and recovery related to One Health; and

(F) provide recommendations to Congress regarding additional action or legislation that may be required to assist in establishing the One Health Program.

(3) ADDENDUM.—Not later than 3 years after the creation of the framework, the Secretary, in coordination with the agencies described in paragraph (1), shall submit to Congress an addendum to the framework that describes the progress made in advancing the activities described in the framework.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary.

#### **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT.**

Not later than 2 years after the date of the submission of the addendum under section 3(b)(3), the Comp-

1 troller General of the United States shall submit to Con-  
2 gress a report that—

3           (1) details existing collaborative efforts between  
4       the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the  
5       Food and Drug Administration, the Department of  
6       Agriculture, the United States Agency for Inter-  
7       national Development, the Environmental Protection  
8       Agency, the National Institutes of Health, the De-  
9       partment of Homeland Security, the Department of  
10      the Interior, and other departments and agencies to  
11      prevent and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks in  
12      animals and humans; and

13           (2) contains an evaluation of the framework  
14      and the specific activities requested to achieve the  
15      framework.

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