

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 501

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategy for public health preparedness and response to artificial intelligence threats, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategy for public health preparedness and response to artificial intelligence threats, 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 “Strategy for Public
5 Health Preparedness and Response to Artificial Intel-
6 ligence Threats”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS**
 2 **AND RESPONSE TO ARTIFICIAL INTEL-**
 3 **LIGENCE THREATS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-
 6 tificial intelligence” has the meaning given the term
 7 in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National
 8 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10
 9 U.S.C. note prec. 4061; Public Law 115–232).

10 (2) PHSA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “qualified
 11 countermeasure”, “security countermeasure”, and
 12 “qualified pandemic or epidemic product” have the
 13 meanings given the terms in sections 319F–1(a)(2),
 14 319F–2(c)(1)(B), and 319F–3(i), respectively, of the
 15 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–
 16 6a(a)(2); (42 U.S.C. 247d–6b(c)(1)(B); (42 U.S.C.
 17 247d–6d(i)).

18 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 19 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

20 (b) STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS
 21 AND RESPONSE TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
 22 THREATS.—

23 (1) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after
 24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
 25 consultation with stakeholders, including stake-
 26 holders developing qualified countermeasures, secu-

1 rity countermeasures, or qualified pandemic or epi-
2 demic products and stakeholders with an under-
3 standing of artificial intelligence technologies, shall
4 prepare and submit to the relevant committees of
5 Congress a strategy for public health preparedness
6 and response and biodefense to address the risks of
7 misuse of artificial intelligence that present a threat
8 to national health security.

9 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy under para-
10 graph (1) shall include—

11 (A) a framework for public health pre-
12 paredness and response to mitigate the risks of
13 misuse of artificial intelligence that present a
14 threat to national health security;

15 (B) identifying the duties, functions, and
16 preparedness goals for which the Secretary is
17 responsible in order to prepare for, respond to,
18 and mitigate the risks of such artificial intel-
19 ligence threats, including metrics by which to
20 measure success in meeting preparedness and
21 risk mitigation goals;

22 (C) identifying gaps in public health capa-
23 bilities to achieve such preparedness and risk
24 mitigation goals;

(D) strategies to address identified gaps and strengthen public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities to address such artificial intelligence threats; and

(E) strategies to mitigate—

(i) the risks posed by the threat of the misuse of artificial intelligence, at a minimum of—

(I) the development of biological weapons; and

(II) the design of viruses and bacteria that are resistant to treatment; and

(ii) such other risks posed by the threat of the misuse of artificial intelligence as are determined by the Secretary.

(3) PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY.—

The Secretary shall make the strategy under paragraph (1) available to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and other congressional committees of jurisdiction, in a manner that does not compromise national security.

1 (c) COORDINATION OF PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RE-
 2 SPONSE TO ALL-HAZARDS PUBLIC HEALTH EMER-
 3 GENCIES.—Section 2811(b)(4)(D) of the Public Health
 4 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–10(b)(4)(D)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “deployment of the Federal re-
 6 sponse” and inserting the following: “deployment
 7 of—

8 “(i) the Federal response”;

9 (2) in clause (i) (as so designated), by striking
 10 “and such Federal responses” and inserting the fol-
 11 lowing:

12 “(ii) such Federal responses”;

13 (3) in clause (ii) (as so designated), by striking
 14 the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(iii) such Federal responses covered
 17 by the strategy for public health prepared-
 18 ness and response to address the risks of
 19 misuse of artificial intelligence that present
 20 a threat to national health security de-
 21 scribed in section 2(b) of the Strategy for
 22 Public Health Preparedness and Response
 23 to Artificial Intelligence Threats.”.

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