

December 11, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary  
United States Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

We are writing to support the National Biodefense Strategy and its acknowledgement that addressing emerging infectious disease threats, including antimicrobial resistance, is a critical component of America's biodefense activities.

As a coalition of more than 30 nonprofit organizations advancing policies to accelerate the creation of new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and other health technologies that bring healthy lives within reach of all people, we share the view expressed in the Strategy that "infectious diseases do not respect borders" and support the centrality of research and development to the biodefense enterprise.

Specifically, we support goals in the National Biodefense Strategy aimed at accelerating basic and applied research and development of new antimicrobials, novel therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostic tests, promoting increased global capacities for research and development, and integrating research and development into federal planning before and during a potential bio-incident.

The National Biodefense Strategy provides a solid framework for policy implementation and we stand ready to support Administration requests for dedicated funding to support these critical activities. We look forward to working closely with the Administration to promote and implement the more detailed policies needed to ensure a robust pipeline of therapeutics, diagnostics and vaccines needed to address antimicrobial resistance and emerging infectious diseases.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Biodefense Steering Committee and/or staff to further discuss the plan.

Sincerely,



Heather Ignatius  
Global Health Technologies Coalition Steering Committee

cc: John Bolton, National Security Advisor of the United States, The White House  
cc: Thomas McCaffery, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense  
cc: Robert Kadlec, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
cc: Robert Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention