



This comprehensive authorizing legislation aims to end deaths from influenza in the United States within our lifetimes. The bill builds on the National Influenza Vaccine Modernization Strategy to strengthen the federal government’s seasonal and pandemic influenza ecosystem. Among other provisions, the bill:

- **Strengthens and diversifies influenza vaccine development, manufacturing, and supply chains.**
 - Speeds up vaccine development and requires a plan to achieve a universal influenza vaccine.
 - Implements the National Influenza Vaccine Modernization Strategy.
 - Strengthens the BARDA pandemic influenza medical countermeasures program.
- **Promotes innovative approaches and use of new technologies to detect, prevent, and respond to influenza.**
 - Authorizes the development of novel sequencing modalities, point-of-care and self-testing diagnostics, novel preventive approaches, and improved therapeutics.
 - Strengthens the diagnostics supply chain.
- **Increases influenza vaccine, therapeutics, and testing access and coverage across all populations.**
 - Addresses vaccine confidence and mis- and dis-information.
 - Incorporates outreach to rural communities and vulnerable populations across federal influenza planning and response programs.
 - Creates a test-to-treat demonstration program for influenza.
 - Incentivizes pathways for pharmacy personnel to administer influenza vaccines.
 - Requires dynamic management and diversification of influenza products in the Strategic National Stockpile.
 - Requires HHS to monitor antiviral supplies and create a strategy for distributing products in areas of urgent need.
- **Authorizes sustainable funding for the federal influenza ecosystem.**
 - Funds programs at ASPR, CDC, SNS, NIH, BARDA.
 - Creates Health Defense Operations budget designation to exempt critical health protection programs from spending caps.

WHY IS THIS BILL NEEDED?

- ⇒ Influenza occurs seasonally each year, and throughout history has caused devastating pandemics. The 1918 influenza pandemic killed an estimated 675k Americans.
- ⇒ Flu causes hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and millions of illnesses in an average season. In the 2024-25 season, 293 children died of flu in the U.S., a new record.
- ⇒ Strategies that improve seasonal influenza outcomes will also improve pandemic readiness.
- ⇒ Most funding for pandemic influenza preparedness up until 2018 was derived from supplemental appropriations that dated back to the 2009 H1N9 pandemic.
- ⇒ The U.S. can and should do more to stop deaths from seasonal and pandemic influenza and ensure that preventatives, treatments, and diagnostics are available to all who want access.