

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3778

To establish a program to oversee the global COVID–19 response and prepare for future pandemics, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2021

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. ROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a program to oversee the global COVID–19 response and prepare for future 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Nullifying Opportuni-
5 ties for Variants to Infect and Decimate Act” or the
6 “NOVID Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the United States has made tremendous
4 progress towards ending the COVID–19 pandemic
5 within its borders, thanks to an unprecedented and
6 highly successful vaccination campaign spearheaded
7 by the Biden administration;

8 (2) beyond those borders, the pandemic con-
9 tinues to rage unchecked across much of the world
10 as global vaccination efforts have struggled to keep
11 pace;

12 (3) if current trends continue, many middle-in-
13 come countries may not achieve widespread vaccina-
14 tion until late 2022, and the world’s poorest nations
15 will likely not reach widespread vaccination coverage
16 before 2023, if at all;

17 (4) this situation threatens progress toward
18 ending the COVID–19 pandemic here in the United
19 States, as unchecked transmission of COVID–19
20 gives rise to new variants, many of which show vac-
21 cine-resistance;

22 (5) the most concerning of these variants has
23 been shown to reduce vaccine efficacy by as much as
24 20 to 40 percent; and

25 (6) to protect American citizens from the emer-
26 gence of new vaccine-resistant coronavirus variants

1 and to prevent the kind of humanitarian catastrophe
2 currently occurring in South Asia, South America,
3 and elsewhere, the United States should take up the
4 mantle of global leadership in the fight to end the
5 COVID–19 pandemic.

6 **SEC. 3. PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
9 “Pandemic Preparedness and Response Program” (in this
10 Act referred to as the “Program”) to be responsible for
11 and provide oversight over the United States government-
12 wide global health response to the COVID–19 pandemic
13 and protect Americans from the emergence of COVID–
14 19 variants and other pathogens with pandemic potential.

15 (b) DIRECTOR.—The Director of the Program shall
16 be appointed by the President. The Director shall be re-
17 sponsible for coordinating among the Federal departments
18 and agencies listed in subsection (c)(1) and coordinating
19 the role of the United States in the work of international
20 non-governmental organizations, development banks, civil
21 society, and foreign governments, with respect to the glob-
22 al health response to the COVID–19 pandemic and the
23 prevention of the emergence of variants or of other patho-
24 gens with pandemic potential.

1 (c) FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—The
2 Federal departments and agencies listed in this subsection
3 are the following:

4 (1) The Department of State.

5 (2) The United States Agency for International
6 Development.

7 (3) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
8 vention.

9 (4) The Food and Drug Administration.

10 (5) The Biomedical Advanced Research and De-
11 velopment Authority and the Health Resources and
12 Services Administration of the Department of
13 Health and Human Services.

14 (6) The Department of Defense.

15 (7) The Peace Corps.

16 (8) The Department of Labor.

17 (9) Any other department or agency the Presi-
18 dent determines appropriate.

19 (d) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.—Not later than 30
20 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Direc-
21 tor shall develop a comprehensive strategy to end the
22 COVID–19 pandemic worldwide, as well as a long-term
23 strategy for preventing future pandemics, that includes
24 specific achievable goals to accomplish the following with
25 respect to the COVID–19 pandemic:

1 (1) With respect to supplies, addressing issues
2 relating to the shortages of vaccines, vaccine compo-
3 nents, and any raw materials necessary to producing
4 these articles, as well as other supplies necessary to
5 carrying out a global vaccination campaign, to en-
6 sure that there is an adequate supply of vaccines
7 and other necessary articles for all countries (taking
8 into account existing manufacturing capacity).

9 (2) With respect to delivery, addressing issues
10 relating to the end-to-end delivery and administra-
11 tion of vaccines in low- and middle-income countries
12 to ensure that at least 60 percent of the populations
13 in the 92 low- and middle-income countries identi-
14 fied by the COVAX initiative are vaccinated as soon
15 as possible and no later than the beginning of the
16 second quarter of 2022.

17 (3) With respect to preventing future
18 pandemics, addressing issues relating to the coordi-
19 nation and integration of disease surveillance and
20 early-warning systems, harmonizing early crisis re-
21 sponse measures around the world, and limiting the
22 potential for spillover events before they happen.

23 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to
2 be appropriated \$34,000,000,000 to carry out the
3 Program established under this section.

4 (2) COORDINATION.—Amounts made available
5 to any Federal department or agency for providing
6 global health assistance or other forms of foreign as-
7 sistance are also authorized to be made available to
8 the Program and shall be subject to the oversight
9 and coordination of the Director.

10 (3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
11 Congress that—

12 (A) approximately \$25,000,000,000 of the
13 amount appropriated pursuant to the authoriza-
14 tion under paragraph (1) should be made avail-
15 able to scale vaccine manufacturing capacity
16 and produce vaccines;

17 (B) approximately \$8,500,000,000 of such
18 funds should be made available to cover the
19 cost of end-to-end delivery and administration
20 of vaccines in target countries; and

21 (C) approximately \$500,000,000 should be
22 made available to establish a global disease sur-
23 veillance network to protect against future
24 pandemics.

1 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.**

2 (a) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the strat-
3 egy developed pursuant to section 3(d)—

4 (1) the Director of the Program shall—

5 (A) ensure the immediate release of the
6 80,000,000 doses of vaccine that the United
7 States has already committed to send abroad;

8 (B) reassess the United States vaccine
9 stockpile with regard to domestic vaccination
10 objectives and trends to determine whether fur-
11 ther vaccines can be sent abroad;

12 (C) coordinate with the Biomedical Ad-
13 vanced Research and Development Authority of
14 the Department of Health and Human Services
15 (BARDA) to rapidly scale manufacturing ca-
16 pacity around the world, both in the United
17 States and in regional manufacturing hubs, to
18 whatever degree necessary and wherever nec-
19 essary, to produce 8,000,000,000 vaccine doses
20 as soon as possible, in addition to existing man-
21 ufacturing capacity;

22 (D) consider the potential benefit of re-
23 gional manufacturing hubs in South America,
24 Africa and South Asia for the future of global
25 health more generally, and especially the poten-
26 tial benefit for addressing future pandemics

1 through the surveillance network implemented
2 pursuant to paragraph (3);

3 (E) encourage and facilitate technology
4 sharing and the licensing of intellectual prop-
5 erty as much as is necessary to ensure an ade-
6 quate and timely supply of necessary articles;

7 (F) in collaboration with COVAX, ensure
8 equitable access to vaccines, especially those
9 produced through the efforts of BARDA and
10 the Program as described in subparagraph (3)
11 and paragraph (2);

12 (G) work with international partners to
13 provide enough vaccines to lower- and middle-
14 income countries to fully vaccinate at least 60
15 percent of their respective populations, with
16 special attention to the 92 lower- and middle-
17 income countries identified by the COVAX ini-
18 tiative as being the most in need of assistance;
19 and

20 (H) consider the central and necessary role
21 that community engagement and public aware-
22 ness will play in ensuring the voluntary uptake
23 of vaccines by at least 60% of the populations
24 in target countries;

25 (2) the Program shall—

1 (A) work closely with host governments,
2 international partners, and other non-govern-
3 mental organizations to develop in-country in-
4 frastructure, personnel and other assets suffi-
5 cient to deliver vaccines where they are needed,
6 when they are needed, and to administer the
7 vaccines to appropriate target populations;

8 (B) build on existing healthcare delivery
9 infrastructure and relationships developed
10 through the President's Emergency Plan For
11 AIDS Relief and other pre-existing, bilateral
12 humanitarian aid programs between the United
13 States and the target countries, as well as
14 through pre-existing multilateral relationships
15 and initiatives in target countries;

16 (C) develop country operational plans tar-
17 geted primarily at lower- and middle-income
18 countries without the infrastructure to manu-
19 facture, acquire, or administer vaccines on their
20 own;

21 (D) monitor how many people in such tar-
22 get countries received inoculations, the infection
23 rate, and vaccine manufacture status, including
24 as a result of the activities of the Program; and

1 (E) monitor and prepare, on a daily basis,
2 updates on the overall progress in non-targeted
3 countries toward vaccinating their populations
4 and ending the COVID–19 pandemic within
5 their borders, to ensure that the Director re-
6 mains aware of overall global progress toward
7 vaccinating the global population and ending
8 the COVID–19 pandemic worldwide; and

9 (3) following the end or abatement of the
10 COVID–19 pandemic, the Program should shift to
11 protect against future pandemics by coordinating a
12 global disease surveillance network to identify and
13 stop pathogens with pandemic potential before they
14 spread uncontrollably by—

15 (A) building on existing surveillance and
16 prevention infrastructure and relationships de-
17 veloped through the National Security Council
18 Directorate on Global Health Security and Bio-
19 defense as well as other pre-existing surveillance
20 and prevention programs;

21 (B) working with international partners to
22 establish a coordinated disease surveillance sys-
23 tem, directly linked to decision-makers in for-
24 eign governments and non-governmental organi-
25 zations, such that certain agreed early-warning

1 metrics would trigger timely and open commu-
2 nication between relevant decision-makers
3 around the world; and

4 (C) in addition to monitoring for early-
5 warning signs of potential future pandemics,
6 consider how to prevent or limit the potential
7 for new spillover events by which new pathogens
8 with pandemic potential are first transmitted to
9 humans.

10 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
11 gress that—

12 (1) the United States Government played a cru-
13 cial role in the unprecedented rapid development of
14 the COVID–19 vaccines, substantially funding sev-
15 eral vaccine candidates and closely collaborating with
16 Moderna on the NIH-Moderna vaccine; and

17 (2) in the face of a global health emergency, the
18 United States Government has broad authority, in-
19 cluding under the Defense Production Act (50
20 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) and chapter 18 of title 35,
21 United States Code (commonly referred to as the
22 “Bayh-Dole Act”), to ensure adequate supply of vac-
23 cines, necessary components, and raw materials

- 1 through technology sharing and direct collaboration
- 2 with manufacturers around the world.

