

INFORMAL COALITION ON BIODEFENSE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

July 31, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate Committee Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Committee Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, that have joined together as an informal coalition on biodefense and public health preparedness, we write in support of the nomination of Robert Kadlec, MD, MS to be the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The position that Dr. Kadlec has been nominated to fill is of vital importance.

Dr. Kadlec has a long history of public service and strong expertise in public health policy, intelligence and preparedness. He spent 26 years as a career officer and physician in the United States Air Force, serving in several senior positions in the White House, the U.S. Senate, and the Department of Defense. Dr. Kadlec is currently the Majority Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Dr. Kadlec served as the Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Biodefense Policy on the Homeland Security Council, where he was responsible for conducting a biodefense end-to-end assessment, which culminated in drafting the National Biodefense Policy for the 21st Century. He also served as staff director for Senator Richard Burr's subcommittee on bioterrorism and public health in the 109th Congress. In this capacity, he was instrumental in drafting the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act.

Dr. Kadlec's contributions to biodefence, biosecurity, public health preparedness and response are a testament to his knowledge of issues facing HHS in securing a healthy future for all Americans.

We urge swift confirmation of Dr. Kadlec as HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

Please contact any of the following individuals with questions:

- Austin Harrison, Alliance for Biosecurity (202-457-6331, austin.harrison@squirepb.com)
- Tamar Magarik Haro, American Academy of Pediatrics (202-347-8600, tharo@aap.org)
- Phyllis Arthur, Biotechnology Innovation Organization (202-962-6664, parthur@bio.org)
- Dara Lieberman, Trust for America's Health (202-864-5942, dliberman@tfah.org)

Signed,

Alliance for Biosecurity

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Public Health Association

American Society for Microbiology

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Public Health Laboratories

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Environmental Health Association

Trust for America's Health

U.S. Council of International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA)