



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

Theresa Spinner

Director, Media and Public Relations

Direct: 202-783-5551

tspinner@naccho.org

NACCHO Commends House Passage of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act

Washington, DC, September 25, 2018 — The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), representing the nation's nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments, thanks the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (H.R. 6378). This important legislation maintains the commitment of the federal government to local public health preparedness.

Among the provisions in the bill:

- Strengthens the National Health Security Strategy, including global health security;
- Authorizes the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise, reauthorizes the Strategic National Stockpile, and places additional requirements on how development, procurement, and deployment decisions are made;
- Calls for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) to manage Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets;
- Clarifies state liability laws for volunteers in the Medical Reserve Corps, or involved in the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals;

- Establishes the children's preparedness unit at CDC and authorizes advisory committees on children, people with disabilities, and seniors; and
- Clarifies language for the public health emergency rapid response fund to make it easier to provide funding for the immediate needs resulting from a potential public health emergency.

“Americans in the Carolinas are just beginning their recovery from Hurricane Florence and we will soon enter flu season, which may impact the entire country. Federal support of local health departments’ mandate to protect their communities during such events is literally life-saving,” said NACCHO CEO Lori Tremmel Freeman. “NACCHO calls on the Senate to reauthorize the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act without delay.”

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About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit www.naccho.org.