

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To establish a program for developing medical countermeasures for unknown viral threats.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BALDWIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a program for developing medical countermeasures for unknown viral threats.

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 “Disease X Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES FOR UNKNOWN**
6 **VIRAL THREATS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
9 retary”), acting through the Director of the Biomedical
10 Advanced Research and Development Authority, in coordi-

1 nation with the Joint Program Executive Office for Chem-
2 ical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense, and in
3 consultation with the Director of the National Institutes
4 of Health, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control
5 and Prevention, and other relevant agencies participating
6 in the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures
7 Enterprise, shall establish a Disease X Medical Counter-
8 measures program for purposes of developing medical
9 countermeasures, including therapeutics, diagnostics, and
10 vaccines, for unknown viral threats.

11 (b) CONSULTATION.—Pursuant to the program es-
12 tablished under subsection (a)—

13 (1) the Secretary shall consult with the Public
14 Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enter-
15 prise regarding any investment strategies;

16 (2) the Department of Health and Human
17 Services shall be the agency with primary responsi-
18 bility concerning medical countermeasures needed to
19 protect the diverse public of the United States, in-
20 cluding children and other vulnerable populations;
21 and

22 (3) the Secretary shall consult with the Sec-
23 retary of Defense concerning medical counter-
24 measures targeted to the protection of young,
25 healthy military personnel.

1 (c) ACCESSIBILITY AND EQUITY.—To protect the di-
2 verse public of the United States, the Secretary shall
3 prioritize equity and accessibility, including ease of admin-
4 istration and distribution, in the development of medical
5 countermeasures.

6 (d) GRANT PROGRAM.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award
8 grants to eligible entities to carry out the program
9 under this section.

10 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
11 grant under this subsection, an entity shall be based
12 in the United States and shall maintain domestic re-
13 search and development and manufacturing oper-
14 ations.

15 (3) REQUIREMENT.—Not fewer than 25 percent
16 of the recipients of grants under this subsection
17 shall be eligible entities with 500 or fewer employees.

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
19 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
20 \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2025.