

THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2010

BACKGROUND:

Title 18 of the “Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendation Act” (P.L. 110-53; Aug. 3, 2007) authorized the establishment of a bipartisan commission to study the threat that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses to our country. In 2008, the Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism (WMD Commission) in its World at Risk report concluded that the U.S. was not taking sufficient action to address the proliferation of biological weapons and biological terrorism, and expressing concern about efforts to combat the nuclear threat. Since the beginning of 2009, Representatives Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Peter King (R-NY) have been collaborating on comprehensive legislation to address the recommendations of the WMD Commission.

In April 2010, Former Senators Bob Graham and Jim Talent, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the WMD Commission, testified before the Committee on Homeland Security that Congress needs to act in a comprehensive fashion to address this homeland security threat. The Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparation Act of 2010, as introduced by Reps. Pascrell and King, address the major actions necessary to counter the threat – from prevention and deterrence, preparedness, and detection to attribution, response, and recovery.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE BILL:

Prevention and Deterrence

- **INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING:** National Intelligence Strategy for Countering the Threat from WMD, National Intelligence Strategy for Countering Biological Threats, WMD Intelligence and Information Sharing, Information Sharing and Collaboration for Biosecurity and Biodefense, and Bioterrorism Risk Assessments.
- **ENHANCED BIOSECURITY MEASURES:** Laboratory Security Enhancements, Background Checks, Designation and Monitoring of Tier 1 Material Threat Agents, High Containment Biological Laboratory Security Grants, and Laboratory Biosecurity Information Sharing.
- **EMERGING THREAT PREVENTION:** Periodic Homeland Security Review of Criminal Statutes, Export Enforcement for Counter Proliferation, Dual-Use Terrorist Risks from Synthetic Genomics, and Material Threat Assessments and Determinations.
- **INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS:** International Engagement to Enhance Biodefense and Biosecurity, Promotion of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), and Best Practices for Global Biopreparedness.

Preparedness

- National Pre-Event Vaccination and Antimicrobial Dispensing Policy Review, Communication of Threat Information and Alerts, Individual and Community Preparedness for WMD, Communications Planning for WMD Information Dissemination, and Biotechnology Research, Development, and Procurement.

Detection

- National Biosurveillance Strategy, Detection of Biological Attacks (BioWatch), Rapid Biological Threat Detection and Identification, System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER), Payment for Laboratory Response Network for Bioterrorism (LRN) Services, Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN), and Enhancements for the National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC).

Attribution

- Bioforensics Capabilities and Strategy, Law Enforcement Training to Investigate Biological Threats, and National Academy of Sciences Study of Forensic Science in Homeland Security.

Response

- First Responder Guidance Concerning WMD Attacks, Integrated Plume Modeling for Collective Response, and National Medical Countermeasure Dispensing Strategy.

Recovery

- Guidance Recovery and Restoration from a Biological Attack or Incident and Environmental Recovery from WMD Attacks.