



Trust for America's Health Commends the House Democratic Pandemic Flu Preparedness Plan

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WASHINGTON, December 14, 2005 – The following is a statement by Jeffrey Levi, PhD, Senior Policy Advisor at Trust for America's Health (TFAH):

“Trust for America's Health applauds the introduction today of the House Democratic Pandemic Flu Preparedness Plan. It is a comprehensive package that addresses targeted liability protections for pandemic vaccines, creates a compensation fund for anyone injured by a pandemic vaccine, provides protection for health care workers and first responders and authorizes funding for several activities critical to pandemic preparedness.

The threat of a pandemic is real. The United States is not adequately prepared. Every day lost due to Congressional inaction places the American people at unnecessary risk. It is critical that Congress act before the end of the year to improve domestic and global surveillance capabilities, expand our vaccine production capacity, create a stockpile of antivirals, and assist states to prepare their communities for a pandemic.

We urge bi-partisan support in Congress to fully fund the President's pandemic preparedness request and adopt the provisions outlined in this legislation that fill in the gaps, in particular with regard to fully funding the antiviral stockpile and supporting state and local planning efforts. The Administration, after its tabletop exercise this weekend, acknowledged that state and local health departments will be at the forefront a pandemic response. The federal government has a responsibility to support them in their work to assure that all Americans are equally protected from a pandemic.”

Trust for America's Health is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority.

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