

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1405

To establish a wildlife global animal information network for surveillance internationally to combat the growing threat of emerging diseases that involve wild animals, such as bird flu, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2007

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a wildlife global animal information network for surveillance internationally to combat the growing threat of emerging diseases that involve wild animals, such as bird flu, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Wildlife Global Animal
3 Information Network for Surveillance Act” or “Wildlife
4 GAINS Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds that—

7 (1) the ongoing panzootic of highly pathogenic
8 avian influenza (HPAI) strain H5N1 in Asia and
9 Eurasia is a threat to global human health and the
10 global poultry industry;

11 (2) the HPAI virus is capable of causing mas-
12 sive avian die-offs, and response can easily involve
13 the culling of tens of millions of domestic poultry or
14 domestic waterfowl, resulting in significant economic
15 losses;

16 (3) the fatality rate due to infection in humans
17 may be 30 to 50 percent or more;

18 (4) it has long been known that wild birds are
19 a reservoir host for avian influenza viruses world-
20 wide;

21 (5) the 1918 pandemic, the most lethal of the
22 three pandemics that killed over 40,000,000 people
23 worldwide, was caused by an influenza virus that ini-
24 tially jumped directly from birds to humans and sub-
25 sequently evolved an ability to transmit from
26 human-to-human;

1 (6) this precedent for an avian influenza virus
2 to transmit directly from birds to humans, then
3 spread among humans, significantly raises the con-
4 cern about the current H5N1 influenza strain;

5 (7) increased surveillance, including on migra-
6 tory birds, is critical to controlling avian influenza
7 and preparing for other potential emerging infec-
8 tious diseases;

9 (8) the capacity to proactively detect the
10 threats could result in significantly improved disease
11 prediction and prevention capabilities;

12 (9) international wildlife health surveillance
13 does not clearly fall under the jurisdiction of any
14 Federal or international agency;

15 (10) there is a continued inability to share real-
16 time data across the human, agricultural, wildlife,
17 and veterinary agencies on zoonotic threats;

18 (11) while surveillance at domestic poultry and
19 domestic waterfowl production facilities and farms is
20 an immediate and on-going monitoring need and is
21 being supported through relevant agencies, surveil-
22 lance in wild bird populations that may have been
23 exposed to the virus is a critical component to deter-
24 mine the spread of the virus, implement control

1 measures, and protect human, livestock, and wildlife
2 health;

3 (12) monitoring and surveillance of wild migra-
4 tory and resident water birds are critically important
5 to identifying all strains of influenza viruses in wild
6 birds as a library of possible genotypes, determining
7 their role in the spread of the virus, and anticipating
8 where outbreaks may occur to enhance preparedness;

9 (13) improving surveillance of wildlife health
10 around the world would close significant jurisdic-
11 tional and scientific gaps in current emerging infec-
12 tious disease preparedness;

13 (14) other emerging diseases beyond bird flu
14 merit similar attention, in terms of the potential
15 threats to global public health as well as
16 agribiosecurity and biodiversity;

17 (15) the majority of emerging infectious dis-
18 eases identified in the past several decades have
19 moved from wildlife to humans, largely due to
20 human incursions into or alterations of wildlife habi-
21 tats and hunting, consumption, and trade of wildlife
22 species;

23 (16) the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
24 virus moved from chimpanzees to humans via these
25 mechanisms;

1 (17) many factors contribute to disease emer-
2 gence and spread from wildlife to domestic animals
3 and humans, including environmental degradation
4 and the handling, consumption, and trade of wildlife
5 and wildlife-derived products;

6 (18) from avian influenza to the severe acute
7 respiratory syndrome (SARS), from bovine tuber-
8 culosis to the Ebola virus, and from HIV/AIDS to
9 monkey pox, a long list of zoonotic diseases nega-
10 tively impacts people’s lives and livelihoods and costs
11 the global economy billions of dollars; and

12 (19) the Government of the United States lacks
13 a comprehensive program to monitor wildlife health
14 around the world, a program that could proactively
15 inform preparedness not just in the case of a poten-
16 tial H5N1 influenza strain pandemic, but also for a
17 broader array of emerging infectious disease threats
18 that often arise at the interface between wildlife, hu-
19 mans, and their domestic animals.

20 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

21 The purpose of this Act is to establish a Wildlife
22 Global Animal Information Network for Surveillance—

23 (1) to more rapidly and efficiently detect,
24 verify, and report on the presence of infectious dis-

1 eases, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza, in
2 birds and other wildlife around the world;

3 (2) to use information on pathogens found dur-
4 ing surveillance of wildlife to better delineate poten-
5 tial threats to domestic animals, humans, as well as
6 wildlife itself;

7 (3) to use information on when and where
8 HPAI and other pathogens of concern are identified
9 in wildlife—

10 (A) to better guide preparedness in the
11 United States and around the world; and

12 (B) to carry out a strategic wildlife health
13 surveillance initiative that will provide regions,
14 countries, and specific locations with early
15 warning information that will help target re-
16 sources toward enhancement of agribiosecurity,
17 surveillance, public health vigilance, and related
18 areas;

19 (4) to create an open access database within
20 which information on HPAI and other pathogens of
21 interest identified in wild birds and other wildlife
22 can be shared as close to real time as possible;

23 (5) to protect the health and safety of United
24 States citizens and officials traveling or living
25 abroad; and

1 (6) to protect the economic interests of the
2 United States and its partners from threats to
3 health, agriculture, and natural resources, including
4 wildlife itself.

5 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
8 trator” means the Administrator of the United
9 States Agency for International Development, acting
10 in partnership with an eligible organization.

11 (2) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.—The term “eligi-
12 ble organization” means a nongovernmental wildlife
13 conservation organization chartered in the United
14 States with—

15 (A) extensive global wildlife health experi-
16 ence in tracking disease in wild birds and other
17 wildlife, including free-ranging, captive, and
18 wild bird species;

19 (B) proven ability in identifying avian in-
20 fluenza, Ebola virus, and other pathogens in
21 wild birds or other wildlife;

22 (C) experience managing and implementing
23 similar wildlife surveillance activities under the
24 auspices of the United States Agency for Inter-
25 national Development; and

1 (D) accredited zoological facilities in the
2 United States.

3 (3) HPAI.—The term “HPAI” means highly
4 pathogenic avian influenza.

5 (4) WILDLIFE GAINS.—The term “Wildlife
6 GAINS” means the Wildlife Global Animal Informa-
7 tion Network for Surveillance established under sec-
8 tion 5(a).

9 (5) WILDLIFE GAINS PARTNERS.—The term
10 “Wildlife GAINS partners” means the partners of
11 the Wildlife GAINS described in section 5(b).

12 **SEC. 5. WILDLIFE GLOBAL ANIMAL INFORMATION NET-**
13 **WORK FOR SURVEILLANCE.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
16 offer to enter into a contract with 1 or more eligible orga-
17 nizations to establish a Wildlife Global Animal Informa-
18 tion Network for Surveillance.

19 (b) PARTNERS.—In administering the Wildlife
20 GAINS, the Administrator and the eligible organization
21 shall collaborate with appropriate—

22 (1) Federal and State agency partners, includ-
23 ing—

24 (A) the Department of Agriculture, acting
25 through—

1 (i) the Agricultural Research Service;

2 and

3 (ii) the Animal and Plant Health In-

4 spection Service;

5 (B) the Department of Health and Human

6 Services, acting through the Centers for Dis-

7 ease Control and Prevention;

8 (C) the Department of Homeland Security;

9 (D) the Department of Defense;

10 (E) the Department of the Interior, acting

11 through—

12 (i) the United States Geological Sur-

13 vey; and

14 (ii) the United States Fish and Wild-

15 life Service; and

16 (F) various State wildlife agencies in the

17 United States;

18 (2) multilateral agency partners, including—

19 (A) the Food and Agriculture Organiza-

20 tion;

21 (B) the World Health Organization;

22 (C) the Office International des Epizooties,

23 the world animal health organization; and

24 (D) the World Conservation Union;

1 (3) conservation organizations with expertise in
2 international and domestic wildlife monitoring and
3 surveillance;

4 (4) accredited colleges of veterinary medicine
5 and medicine; and

6 (5) other national and international partners,
7 as necessary.

8 (c) INTERNATIONAL SURVEILLANCE.—The eligible
9 organization, in coordination with the United States Agen-
10 cy for International Development, shall manage an inter-
11 national surveillance program under which Federal Wild-
12 life GAINS partners shall, and non-Federal Wildlife
13 GAINS partners are encouraged to—

14 (1) monitor and test for the presence or arrival
15 of avian influenza and other significant avian patho-
16 gens at important bird areas around the world and
17 in marketplaces with intense trade in wild birds;

18 (2) monitor and test for the presence or arrival
19 of other significant pathogens in free-ranging wild-
20 life and in places with intense trade in wild animals;

21 (3) use trained professionals to collect samples
22 and other data and send samples to appropriate di-
23 agnostic centers;

1 (4) use the Wildlife GAINS, in partnership with
2 relevant agencies and organizations, for con-
3 ducting—

4 (A) disease surveillance activities on migra-
5 tory birds and other wildlife worldwide;

6 (B) domestic and international field inves-
7 tigations on migratory birds and other wildlife;

8 (C) training and capacity-building activi-
9 ties related to the relationships between human
10 health, domestic animal health, and wildlife
11 health; and

12 (D) research on methods and approaches
13 for detection and enhanced surveillance of
14 HPAI and other pathogens in migratory birds
15 and other wildlife; and

16 (5) send samples for pathogen identification
17 and testing to certified laboratories that—

18 (A) meet internationally established meth-
19 ods standards;

20 (B) are located at—

21 (i) the Centers for Disease Control
22 and Prevention;

23 (ii) the Office International des
24 Epizooties, the world animal health organi-
25 zation;

1 (iii) the Food and Agriculture Organi-
2 zation;

3 (iv) National Veterinary Services Lab-
4 oratories of the Department of Agriculture;

5 (v) the Agricultural Research Service;

6 or

7 (vi) other relevant specialized labora-
8 tories; and

9 (C) report the findings back to the eligible
10 organization and Wildlife GAINS partners.

11 (d) NETWORK.—

12 (1) PARTNERS.—Federal Wildlife GAINS part-
13 ners shall, and non-Federal Wildlife GAINS part-
14 ners are encouraged to, transmit information related
15 to global distribution and characteristics of signifi-
16 cant pathogens to the Administrator acting through
17 the eligible organization.

18 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator, act-
19 ing through the eligible organization, shall—

20 (A) use surveillance reports and other for-
21 mal and informal sources of information to
22 identify and investigate local disease outbreaks
23 of avian influenza and other infectious diseases
24 involving wildlife, in coordination with Wildlife
25 GAINS partners;

1 (B) develop a long-term baseline of re-
2 gional data related to HPAI and pathogens in
3 migratory birds and other wildlife for analysis
4 between and across sites to create a system to
5 identify when and where outbreaks might occur
6 and paths of dispersal;

7 (C) provide technical assistance for disease
8 prevention and control programs based on sci-
9 entific understanding of the relationships be-
10 tween wildlife health, domestic animal health,
11 and human health;

12 (D) provide analytical disease findings reg-
13 ularly to the United States Agency for Inter-
14 national Development and other Federal Wild-
15 life GAINS partners to prevent or combat
16 human and animal diseases;

17 (E) conduct other activities as are nec-
18 essary to support the Wildlife GAINS network
19 and Wildlife GAINS partners; and

20 (F) coordinate Wildlife GAINS surveillance
21 results at the headquarters of the eligible orga-
22 nization.

23 (e) DATABASE.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting
25 through the eligible organization, shall manage,

1 map, and make available on a database on the Inter-
2 net all results and information gathered under this
3 Act.

4 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The database shall—

5 (A) provide geographic data on wildlife
6 populations and the movements of the popu-
7 lations and laboratory test results; and

8 (B) be available for viewing by any Federal
9 agency, foreign country, multilateral institution,
10 organization, or individual.

11 (f) TRAINING.—The Administrator shall request ac-
12 credited colleges of veterinary medicine and medicine and
13 other Wildlife GAINS partners to train members of the
14 Wildlife GAINS network to—

15 (1) monitor important wildlife areas around the
16 world; and

17 (2) test for the presence or arrival of avian in-
18 fluenza and other significant pathogens of zoonotic
19 concern or of concern to domestic or wild animals.

20 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this Act \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through
23 2012.

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