

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1915

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2015

Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “First Responder An-  
5 thrax Preparedness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM FOR**  
7 **EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.**

8 (a) ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Se-  
2           curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amend-  
3           ed by adding at the end the following new section:

4   **“SEC. 526. ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS.**

5           “(a) PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM  
6   FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.—For the pur-  
7   pose of domestic preparedness for and collective response  
8   to terrorism, the Secretary, in coordination with the Sec-  
9   retary of Health and Human Services, shall—

10           “(1) establish a program to provide anthrax  
11          vaccines from the strategic national stockpile under  
12          section 319F–2(a) of the Public Health Service Act  
13          (42 U.S.C. 247d–6b(a)) that will be nearing the end  
14          of their labeled dates of use at the time such vac-  
15          cines are to be administered to emergency response  
16          providers who are at high risk of exposure to an-  
17          thrax and who voluntarily consent to such adminis-  
18          tration;

19           “(2) establish any necessary logistical and  
20          tracking systems to facilitate making the vaccines  
21          described in paragraph (1) so available;

22           “(3) distribute disclosures regarding associated  
23          benefits and risks to end users; and

24           “(4) conduct outreach to educate emergency re-  
25          sponse providers about the voluntary program.

1 “(b) THREAT ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall—

2 “(1) support homeland security-focused risk  
3 analysis and risk assessments of the threats posed  
4 by anthrax from an act of terror;

5 “(2) leverage existing and emerging homeland  
6 security intelligence capabilities and structures to  
7 enhance prevention, protection, response, and recov-  
8 ery efforts with respect to an anthrax terror attack;  
9 and

10 “(3) share information and provide tailored an-  
11 alytical support on threats posed by anthrax to  
12 State, local, and tribal authorities, as well as other  
13 national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders.”.

14 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
15 tents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by in-  
16 sserting at the end of the items relating to title V the  
17 following new item:

“Sec. 526. Anthrax preparedness.”.

18 (b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pre-  
20 event vaccination program authorized under section  
21 526(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as  
22 added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland  
23 Security, in coordination with the Secretary of  
24 Health and Human Services, shall carry out a pilot  
25 program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency

1 response providers as so authorized. The duration of  
2 the pilot program shall be 24 months from the date  
3 the initial vaccines are administered to participants.

4 (2) PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS.—Prior to  
5 implementing the pilot program under paragraph  
6 (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

7 (A) establish a communication platform for  
8 the pilot program;

9 (B) establish education and training mod-  
10 ules for the pilot program;

11 (C) conduct economic analysis of the pilot  
12 program; and

13 (D) create a logistical platform for the an-  
14 thrax vaccine request process under the pilot  
15 program.

16 (3) LOCATION.—In carrying out the pilot pro-  
17 gram under this subsection, the Secretary of Home-  
18 land Security shall select emergency response pro-  
19 viders based in not less than 2 States for partici-  
20 pation in the pilot program.

21 (4) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—The  
22 Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to  
23 each emergency response provider who participates  
24 in the pilot program under this subsection dislo-  
25 sures and educational materials regarding the asso-

1       ciated benefits and risks of any vaccine provided  
2       under the pilot program and of exposure to anthrax.

3           (5) REPORT.—

4           (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
5       after the date of enactment of this Act, and an-  
6       nually thereafter until 1 year after the comple-  
7       tion of the pilot program, the Secretary of  
8       Homeland Security shall submit to the Com-  
9       mittee on Homeland Security and the Com-  
10      mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House  
11      of Representatives and the Committee on  
12      Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
13      of the Senate a report on the progress and re-  
14      sults of the pilot program, including—

15           (i) the percentage of eligible emer-  
16           gency response providers, as determined by  
17           each pilot location, that volunteer to par-  
18           ticipate;

19           (ii) the degree to which participants  
20           obtain necessary vaccinations, as appro-  
21           priate; and

22           (iii) recommendations to improve ini-  
23           tial and recurrent participation in the pilot  
24           program.

1           (B) REQUIRED PLAN.—The report re-  
2           quired under subparagraph (A) shall include a  
3           plan under which the Secretary plans to con-  
4           tinue the program to provide vaccines to emer-  
5           gency response providers under section 526(a)  
6           of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as  
7           added by subsection (a).

8           (6) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not  
9           later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
10          Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin  
11          implementing the pilot program under this sub-  
12          section.

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