



John S. Parker, M.D., Major General (Retired)  
Chairman, National Biodefense Science Board  
656 Lynn Shores Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Dear Dr. Parker and Members of the National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB):

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is a leader in preparing the Nation and its communities to respond to and recover from public health and medical disasters and emergencies. The 2006 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA), reaffirmed by the 2013 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA), established the ASPR as the principal adviser to the HHS Secretary, responsible for providing integrated policy coordination and strategic direction with respect to all matters related to public health, medical preparedness, and deployment of the federal response for public health emergencies and incidents.

I would like the NBSB to identify future strategies that best support successful achievement of ASPR's mission and that of HHS with regard to preparedness, response and recovery. The report should suggest long-term strategies that will best enable the ASPR and the Secretary of HHS to be fully successful in achieving its goal of protecting Americans' health and safety during emergencies, and fostering resilience to withstand and respond to emergencies.

Additionally, in making its suggestions, I would appreciate it if the committee would do the following:

1. Highlight ASPR's accomplishments to date and its impact on national health preparedness and resilience.
2. Assess environmental, scientific, healthcare, fiscal, policy, and other relevant spheres for potential near- and far-term conditions that may affect ASPR's mission space.
3. Develop an analysis which compares ASPR's current mission, requirements, strategic objectives, resources and capabilities against the near- and far-term conditions to identify potential future resource and capability gaps nationally; suggest adjustments in strategic alignment; and changes to legislative authority and/or policy position.
4. Develop a final report which provides a prioritized list of suggestions based on the comparative analysis for ASPR to support its continued success in the future.

Given the NBSB's expertise and long experience with ASPR, I believe that the NBSB can offer great insight on this issue as an independent scientific body. I look forward to receiving the NBSB's recommendations by January 15, 2015.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the public health preparedness of our nation.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH  
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response