

Advancing Emergency Preparedness Through One Health Act

H.R. 3771/S. 1903



AVMA SUPPORTS

One Health is the idea that humans, animals, and the environment are inextricably linked. This Act would improve federal efforts to prevent, prepare for and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks under a One Health Framework by coordinating activities across Federal agencies.

The One Health Act would:

- Build on existing efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other Federal agencies to integrate human, animal, and environmental health oversight by directing the development and publication of a One Health Framework for coordinated Federal activities.
- Advance workforce development for prevention and response to zoonotic disease outbreaks.
- Improve coordination between Federal agencies on One Health issues.
- Advance scientific understanding of the connections between human, animal and environmental health

What is One Health?

One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and trans-disciplinary approach - working at local, regional, national, and global levels - to achieve optimal health and well-being outcomes recognizing the interconnections between people, animals, plants and their shared environment. As the human population continues to increase and expand across our world, the interconnection of people, animals, and our environment becomes more significant and impactful. This is highlighted by many factors in our world today:

- Our population continues to grow globally and contact between human and wild animal habitats increases, introducing the risk of exposure to new viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing pathogens.
- Advancing technologies and science-based evidence is increasing our awareness and understanding of the interdependency of human, animal, and environmental health.
- The human-animal bond continues to grow throughout societies.
- At least 75% of emerging and re-emerging diseases

- are estimated to be either zoonotic or vector-borne.
- Vigilant protection of our food and feed supplies from food-borne diseases, contamination, and acts of terrorism is critical for human and animal health.

Why a National One Health Framework:

Zoonotic diseases and other impacts to One Health can come with significant health and economic costs. The global cost from six zoonotic disease outbreaks between 1997 and 2009 exceeded \$80 billion, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates there are 2.5 billion cases of zoonotic infections annually. There is a need for greater coordination among those studying animal and human health across government agencies to better prevent and mitigate these challenges by sharing expertise and addressing challenges.

As part of this framework, agencies will submit recommendations to Congress for any action or legislation required to adequately prevent and prepare for potentially devastating disease outbreaks in animals and humans.

Why AVMA supports:

The AVMA is committed to animal and public health, and supports advancements and awareness of the One Health approach. Veterinarians routinely operate at the interface of the three components of One Health, and clinical veterinary practitioners are often at the forefront of protecting human health through the diagnosis and treatment of animal disease, through investigating outbreaks, conducting research, and ensuring a safe and nutritious food supply. Veterinarians play critical roles in the health of animals, humans, and the environment.

Status of the bill:

S. 1903 was introduced by Senators Smith (D-MN) and Young (R-IN) on 6/19/2019 and referred to Senate HELP Committee; H.R. 3771 was introduced by Representatives Schrader (D-OR-5) and Yoho (R-FL-1) on 7/16/2019 and referred to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs.

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