This comprehensive authorizing legislation aims to end deaths from influenza in the United States within our lifetimes. It builds on the National Influenza Vaccine Modernization Strategy, as well as the lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic, to strengthen the federal government’s seasonal and pandemic influenza ecosystem.

- **Strengthens and diversifies influenza vaccine development, manufacturing, and supply chains**
  - Speeds up vaccine development
  - Develops strategy for universal influenza vaccines
  - Implements the National Influenza Vaccine Modernization Strategy
  - Authorizes the BARDA pandemic influenza medical countermeasures program

- **Promotes innovative approaches and use of new technologies to detect, prevent, and respond to influenza**
  - Expands genomic sequencing
  - Supports interoperable immunization information systems
  - Improves detection and diagnosis by funding novel sequencing modalities, in-vitro diagnostic candidates, point-of-person diagnostics
  - Funds novel preventative approaches and improved therapeutics that address gaps in vaccine coverage
  - Develops plan to strengthen and diversify the public health and health care workforce

- **Increases influenza vaccine and therapeutics access and coverage across all populations**
  - Bolsters vaccine confidence
  - Addresses mis- and dis-information
  - Incorporates health equity across federal influenza planning and response programs
  - Creates pathways for pharmacy personnel to administer influenza vaccines
  - Incorporates pandemic influenza products into the Strategic National Stockpile

- **Authorizes sustainable funding for the federal influenza ecosystem**
  - Funds programs at ASPR, CDC, SNS, NIH, BARDA
  - Creates Health Defense Operations budget designation to exempt critical health protection programs from spending caps

**WHY IS THIS BILL NEEDED?**

⇒ Influenza occurs seasonally each year, and throughout history has caused devastating pandemics. The 1918 influenza pandemic killed an estimated 675k Americans.

⇒ Flu causes hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and millions of illnesses in an average season. People from racial and ethnic minority groups are at higher risk of being hospitalized with flu.

⇒ Strategies that improve seasonal influenza outcomes will also improve pandemic readiness.

⇒ Most funding for pandemic influenza preparedness up until 2018 was derived from supplemental appropriations that dated back to the 2009 H1N9 pandemic.

⇒ The U.S. can and should do more to stop deaths from seasonal and pandemic influenza. The Covid-19 pandemic response has been built on the pandemic influenza response ecosystem.