WASHINGTON, D.C.—November 7, 2023 — The Coalition to Stop Flu, a multi-sector advocacy coalition dedicated to ending deaths from seasonal and pandemic influenza, applauds the introduction of S. 3219, the Protecting America from Seasonal and Pandemic Influenza Act (The Influenza Act) by Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), along with Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Tina Smith (D-MN). The legislation comes as the country experiences the first pediatric death of the 2023-2024 flu season.

“Seasonal influenza is perhaps our country’s most predictable, preventable public health crisis,” said former Senate Majority Leader and Chairman of the Coalition to Stop Flu Tom Daschle. “For far too long, our country has seemingly accepted tens of thousands of annual deaths from flu as inevitable. More can, and must, be done. The Influenza Act provides commonsense solutions to improve our ability to prepare for and respond to seasonal and pandemic flu.”

The Influenza Act would take important steps to modernize America’s seasonal and pandemic influenza infrastructure, including strengthening and diversifying influenza vaccine development, manufacturing, and supply chains; promoting innovation and the use of new technologies to detect, prevent, and respond to influenza; increasing influenza vaccine, therapeutics and testing access and coverage; and authorizing sustainable funding for the influenza ecosystem. A companion bill, H.R. 5846, was previously introduced in the House by Congressman Rick Larsen (D-WA-02), along with Representatives Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA-44), Ami Bera, M.D. (D-CA-07), Deborah Ross (D-NC-02), Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24), and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC-At-Large).

“We have all heard the phrase ‘just the flu’—tragically, this fundamentally misrepresents a deadly virus,” said Coalition to Stop Flu Executive Director Niki Carelli. “Our nation has experienced four influenza pandemics since 1918. It is a question of when—not if—the next pandemic reaches our shores. Congress must act now to strengthen and modernize our federal influenza infrastructure, which serves as the backbone for both our seasonal and pandemic response.”

The Influenza Act is also supported by the Alliance for Biosecurity, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, the Big Cities Health Coalition, the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, the Global Health Technologies Coalition Institute for Progress, the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, the National Network of Public Health Institutes, and The Medical Countermeasures Coalition.

The Coalition to Stop Flu looks forward to continuing its partnership with Congress and the Administration to secure sustainable federal funding and enact proactive policy solutions to stop influenza deaths.
Coalition will continue its work to raise awareness and prioritize seasonal and pandemic influenza preparedness by serving as a united voice and trusted resource for policymakers.

*Read the complete text of the Senate legislation [here](#). View a section-by-section of the legislation [here](#) and a one-page summary [here](#).*

**About the Coalition to Stop Flu**

The Coalition to Stop Flu is a multi-sector advocacy coalition dedicated to ending deaths from seasonal and pandemic influenza. The Coalition’s federal policy agenda is aimed at saving lives, saving money, and protecting public health by enhancing the U.S. influenza ecosystem, including ensuring adequate funding for priority influenza programs.

The Coalition’s members include Alvogen, the American Heart Association, the American Society for Microbiology, the Association of Immunization Managers, the Association of Public Health Laboratories, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, BD, CSL Seqirus, Families Fighting Flu, Genentech, GSK, the Healthcare Distribution Alliance, Immunize.org, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Inovio Pharmaceuticals, the National Association of City and County Health Officials, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, Pfizer, Sanofi, Trust for America's Health, Vaccinate Your Family, and Vir Biotechnology.

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