118TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 1798

To establish a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office and an Office of Health Security in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 1, 2023

Mr. Peters (for himself and Mr. Cornyn) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

- To establish a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office and an Office of Health Security in the Department of Homeland Security, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
 - 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
 - 5 "Offices of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction and
 - 6 Health Security Act of 2023".
 - 7 (b) Table of Contents for
 - 8 this Act is as follows:
 - Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE

Sec. 101. Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

Sec. 102. Rule of construction.

TITLE II—OFFICE OF HEALTH SECURITY

Sec.	201.	Office of Health Security.
Sec.	202.	Confidentiality of medical quality assurance records.
Sec.	203.	Technical and conforming amendments.

1 TITLE I—COUNTERING WEAP-

ONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

3	OFFICE
4	SEC. 101. COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
5	OFFICE.
6	(a) Homeland Security Act of 2002.—Title XIX
7	of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 590 et
8	seq.) is amended—
9	(1) in section 1901 (6 U.S.C. 591)—
10	(A) in subsection (c), by striking para-
11	graphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:
12	"(1) matters and strategies pertaining to—
13	"(A) weapons of mass destruction; and
14	"(B) non-medical aspects of chemical, bio-
15	logical, radiological, nuclear, and other related
16	emerging threats;
17	"(2) coordinating the efforts of the Department
18	to counter—
19	"(A) weapons of mass destruction; and

1	"(B) non-medical aspects of chemical, bio-
2	logical, radiological, nuclear, and other related
3	emerging threats; and
4	"(3) enhancing the ability of Federal, State,
5	local, and Tribal partners to prevent, detect, protect
6	against, and mitigate the impacts of terrorist at-
7	tacks in the United States to counter—
8	"(A) weapons of mass destruction; and
9	"(B) non-medical aspects of use of unau-
10	thorized chemical, biological, radiological, and
11	nuclear materials, devices, or agents and other
12	related emerging threats."; and
13	(B) by striking subsection (e);
14	(2) by amending section 1921 (6 U.S.C. 591g)
15	to read as follows:
16	"SEC. 1921. MISSION OF THE OFFICE.
17	"The Office shall be responsible for—
18	"(1) coordinating the efforts of the Department
19	and with other Federal departments and agencies to
20	counter—
21	"(A) weapons of mass destruction; and
22	"(B) chemical, biological, radiological, nu-
23	clear, and other related emerging threats; and

1	"(2) enhancing the ability of Federal, State,
2	local, and Tribal partners to prevent, detect, protect
3	against, and mitigate the impacts of attacks using—
4	"(A) weapons of mass destruction against
5	the United States; and
6	"(B) unauthorized chemical, biological, ra-
7	diological, nuclear materials, devices, or agents
8	and other related emerging threats against the
9	United States.";
10	(3) in section 1922 (6 U.S.C. 591h)—
11	(A) by striking subsection (b); and
12	(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
13	section (b);
14	(4) in section 1923 (6 U.S.C. 592)—
15	(A) by redesignating subsections (a) and
16	(b) as subsections (b) and (d), respectively;
17	(B) by inserting before subsection (b), as
18	so redesignated, the following:
19	"(a) Office Responsibilities.—
20	"(1) In general.—For the purposes of coordi-
21	nating the efforts of the Department to counter
22	weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biologi-
23	cal, radiological, nuclear, and other related emerging
24	threats, the Office shall—

- 1 "(A) provide expertise and guidance to De2 partment leadership and components on non3 medical aspects of chemical, biological, radio4 logical, nuclear, and other related emerging
 5 threats, subject to the research, development,
 6 testing, and evaluation coordination require7 ment described in subparagraph (G);
 - "(B) in coordination with the Office for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, lead development of policies and strategies to counter weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and other related emerging threats on behalf of the Department;
 - "(C) identify, assess, and prioritize capability gaps relating to the strategic and mission objectives of the Department for weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and other related emerging threats;
 - "(D) in coordination with the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, support components of the Department, and Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners by providing intelligence and information analysis and reports on weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radi-

1	ological, nuclear, and other related emerging
2	threats;
3	"(E) in consultation with the Science and
4	Technology Directorate, assess risk to the
5	United States from weapons of mass destruc-
6	tion and chemical, biological, radiological, nu-
7	clear, and other related emerging threats;
8	"(F) lead development and prioritization of
9	Department requirements to counter weapons
10	of mass destruction and chemical, biological, ra-
11	diological, nuclear, and other related emerging
12	threats, subject to the research, development,
13	testing, and evaluation coordination require-
14	ment described in subparagraph (G), which re-
15	quirements shall be—
16	"(i) developed in coordination with
17	end users; and
18	"(ii) reviewed by the Joint Require-
19	ments Council, as directed by the Sec-
20	retary;
21	"(G) in coordination with the Science and
22	Technology Directorate, direct, fund, and co-
23	ordinate capability development activities to
24	counter weapons of mass destruction and chem-
25	ical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and other

related emerging threats research, development, test, and evaluation matters, including research, development, testing, and evaluation expertise, threat characterization, technology maturation, prototyping, and technology transition;

"(H) acquire, procure, and deploy capabilities to counter weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and other related emerging threats, and serve as the lead advisor of the Department on component acquisition, procurement, and deployment of counter-weapons of mass destruction capabilities;

"(I) in coordination with the Office of Health Security, support components of the Department, and Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners on chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and other related emerging threats health matters;

"(J) provide expertise on weapons of mass destruction and non-medical aspects of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and other related emerging threats to Departmental and Federal partners to support engagements and efforts with international partners subject to

1	the research, development, testing, and evalua-
2	tion coordination requirement under subpara-
3	graph (G); and
4	"(K) carry out any other duties assigned
5	to the Office by the Secretary.
6	"(2) Detection and reporting.—For pur-
7	poses of the detection and reporting responsibilities
8	of the Office for weapons of mass destruction and
9	chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and other
10	related emerging threats, the Office shall—
11	"(A) in coordination with end users, in-
12	cluding State, local, and Tribal partners, as ap-
13	propriate—
14	"(i) carry out a program to test and
15	evaluate technology, in consultation with
16	the Science and Technology Directorate, to
17	detect and report on weapons of mass de-
18	struction and chemical, biological, radio-
19	logical, nuclear, and other related emerging
20	threats, in coordination with other Federal
21	agencies, as appropriate, and establish per-
22	formance metrics to evaluate the effective-
23	ness of individual detectors and detection
24	systems in detecting those weapons of
25	mass destruction or chemical, biological,

1	radiological, nuclear, or other related
2	emerging threats—
3	"(I) under realistic operational
4	and environmental conditions; and
5	"(II) against realistic adversary
6	tactics and countermeasures;
7	"(B) in coordination with end users, con-
8	duct, support, coordinate, and encourage a
9	transformational program of research and de-
10	velopment to generate and improve technologies
11	to detect, protect against, and report on the il-
12	licit entry, transport, assembly, or potential use
13	within the United States of weapons of mass
14	destruction and chemical, biological, radio-
15	logical, nuclear, and other related emerging
16	threats, and coordinate with the Under Sec-
17	retary for Science and Technology on research
18	and development efforts relevant to the mission
19	of the Office and the Under Secretary for
20	Science and Technology;
21	"(C) before carrying out operational test-
22	ing under subparagraph (A), develop a testing
23	and evaluation plan that articulates the require-
24	ments for the user and describes how these ca-
25	pability needs will be tested in developmental

test and evaluation and operational test and evaluation;

"(D) as appropriate, develop, acquire, and deploy equipment to detect and report on weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and other related emerging threats in support of Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments;

"(E) support and enhance the effective sharing and use of appropriate information on weapons of mass destruction and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and other related emerging threats generated by elements of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)), law enforcement agencies, other Federal agencies, State, local, and Tribal governments, and foreign governments, as well as provide appropriate information to those entities;

"(F) consult, as appropriate, with relevant Departmental components and offices, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other Federal partners, on weapons of mass destruction and non-medical aspects of chemical,

1	biological, radiological, nuclear, and other re-
2	lated emerging threats and efforts to mitigate
3	prepare, and respond to all threats in support
4	of the State, local, and Tribal communities; and
5	"(G) perform other duties as assigned by
6	the Secretary.";
7	(C) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—
8	(i) in the subsection heading, by strik-
9	ing "MISSION" and inserting "RADIO-
10	LOGICAL AND NUCLEAR RESPONSIBIL-
11	ITIES";
12	(ii) in paragraph (1)—
13	(I) by inserting "deploy," after
14	"acquire,"; and
15	(II) by striking "deployment"
16	and inserting "operations";
17	(iii) by striking paragraphs (6)
18	through (10);
19	(iv) redesignating paragraphs (11)
20	and (12) as paragraphs (6) and (7), re-
21	spectively;
22	(v) in paragraph (6), as so redesig-
23	nated—
24	(I) by striking subparagraph (B):

1	(II) by striking "activities—"
2	and all that follows through "to en-
3	sure" and inserting "activities to en-
4	sure'; and
5	(III) by striking "attacks; and"
6	and inserting "attacks;"
7	(vi) in paragraph (7)(C)(v), as so re-
8	designated—
9	(I) in the matter preceding sub-
10	clause (I), by inserting "except as oth-
11	erwise provided," before "require";
12	and
13	(II) in subclause (II)—
14	(aa) in the matter preceding
15	item (aa), by striking "death or
16	disability" and inserting "death,
17	disability, or a finding of good
18	cause as determined by the As-
19	sistant Secretary (including ex-
20	treme hardship, extreme need, or
21	the needs of the Office) and for
22	which the Assistant Secretary
23	may grant a waiver of the repay-
24	ment obligation"; and

1	(bb) in item (bb), by adding
2	"and" at the end;
3	(vii) by striking paragraph (13); and
4	(viii) by redesignating paragraph (14)
5	as paragraph (8); and
6	(D) by inserting after subsection (b), as so
7	redesignated, the following:
8	"(c) Chemical and Biological Responsibil-
9	ITIES.—The Office—
10	"(1) shall be responsible for coordinating with
11	other Federal efforts to enhance the ability of Fed-
12	eral, State, local, and Tribal governments to prevent,
13	detect, mitigate, and protect against the importa-
14	tion, possession, storage, transportation, develop-
15	ment, or use of unauthorized chemical and biological
16	materials, devices, or agents against the United
17	States; and
18	"(2) shall—
19	"(A) serve as a primary entity responsible
20	for the efforts of the Department to develop,
21	acquire, deploy, and support the operations of a
22	national biological detection system and im-
23	prove that system over time;
24	"(B) enhance the chemical and biological
25	detection efforts of Federal, State, local, and

1	Tribal governments and provide guidance, tools,
2	and training to help ensure a managed, coordi-
3	nated response; and
4	"(C) collaborate with the Department of
5	Health and Human Services, the Office of
6	Health Security of the Department, the Defense
7	Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the
8	National Aeronautics and Space Administra-
9	tion, and other relevant Federal stakeholders,
10	and receive input from industry, academia, and
11	the national laboratories on chemical and bio-
12	logical surveillance efforts.";
13	(5) in section 1924 (6 U.S.C. 593), by striking
14	"section 11011 of the Strom Thurmond National
15	Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (5
16	U.S.C. 3104 note)." and inserting "section 4092 of
17	title 10, United States Code, except that the author-
18	ity shall be limited to facilitate the recruitment of
19	experts in the chemical, biological, radiological, or
20	nuclear specialties.";
21	(6) in section 1927(a)(1)(C) (6 U.S.C.
22	596a(a)(1)(C))—
23	(A) in clause (i), by striking "required
24	under section 1036 of the National Defense Au-
25	thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010";

1	(B) in clause (ii), by striking "and" at the
2	end;
3	(C) in clause (iii), by striking the period at
4	the end and inserting "; and"; and
5	(D) by adding at the end the following:
6	"(iv) includes any other information
7	regarding national technical nuclear
8	forensics activities carried out under sec-
9	tion 1923.";
10	(7) in section 1928 (6 U.S.C. 596b)—
11	(A) in subsection (a), by striking "high-
12	risk urban areas" and inserting "jurisdictions
13	designated under subsection (c)";
14	(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "from
15	among high-risk urban areas under section
16	2003" and inserting "based on the capability
17	and capacity of the jurisdiction, as well as the
18	relative threat, vulnerability, and consequences
19	from terrorist attacks and other high-con-
20	sequence events utilizing nuclear or other radio-
21	logical materials"; and
22	(C) by striking subsection (d) and insert-
23	ing the following:
24	"(d) Report.—Not later than 2 years after the date
25	of enactment of the Offices of Countering Weapons of

1	Mass Destruction and Health Security Act of 2023, the
2	Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional
3	committees an update on the STC program."; and
4	(8) by adding at the end the following:
5	"SEC. 1929. ACCOUNTABILITY.
6	"(a) Departmentwide Strategy.—
7	"(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days
8	after the date of enactment of Offices of Countering
9	Weapons of Mass Destruction and Health Security
10	Act of 2023, and every 4 years thereafter, the Sec-
11	retary shall create a Departmentwide strategy and
12	implementation plan to counter weapons of mass de-
13	struction and chemical, biological, radiological, nu-
14	clear, and other related emerging threats, which
15	should—
16	"(A) have clearly identified authorities.
17	specified roles, objectives, benchmarks, account-
18	ability, and timelines;
19	"(B) incorporate the perspectives of non-
20	Federal and private sector partners; and
21	"(C) articulate how the Department will
22	contribute to relevant national-level strategies
23	and work with other Federal agencies.
24	"(2) Consideration.—The Secretary shall ap-
25	propriately consider weapons of mass destruction

1	and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and
2	other related emerging threats when creating the
3	strategy and implementation plan required under
4	paragraph (1).
5	"(3) Report.—The Office shall submit to the
6	appropriate congressional committees a report on
7	the updated Departmentwide strategy and imple-
8	mentation plan required under paragraph (1).
9	"(b) Departmentwide Biodefense Review and
10	STRATEGY.—
11	"(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days
12	after the date of enactment of the Offices of Coun-
13	tering Weapons of Mass Destruction and Health Se-
14	curity Act of 2023, the Secretary, in consultation
15	with appropriate stakeholders representing Federal,
16	State, local, Tribal, academic, private sector, and
17	nongovernmental entities, shall conduct a Depart-
18	mentwide review of biodefense activities and strate-
19	gies.
20	"(2) Review.—The review required under
21	paragraph (1) shall—
22	"(A) identify with specificity the biodefense
23	lines of effort of the Department, including re-
24	lating to biodefense roles, responsibilities, and

1	capabilities of components and offices of the
2	Department;
3	"(B) assess how such components and of-
4	fices coordinate internally and with public and
5	private partners in the biodefense enterprise;
6	"(C) identify any policy, resource, capa-
7	bility, or other gaps in the Department's ability
8	to assess, prevent, protect against, and respond
9	to biological threats; and
10	"(D) identify any organizational changes
11	or reforms necessary for the Department to ef-
12	fectively execute its biodefense mission and role,
13	including with respect to public and private
14	partners in the biodefense enterprise.
15	"(3) Strategy.—Not later than 1 year after
16	completion of the review required under paragraph
17	(1), the Secretary shall issue a biodefense strategy
18	for the Department that—
19	"(A) is informed by such review and is
20	aligned with section 1086 of the National De-
21	fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6
22	U.S.C. 104; relating to the development of a
23	national biodefense strategy and associated im-
24	plementation plan, including a review and as-
25	sessment of biodefense policies, practices, pro-

1	grams, and initiatives) or any successor strat-
2	egy; and
3	"(B) shall—
4	"(i) describe the biodefense mission
5	and role of the Department, as well as how
6	such mission and role relates to the bio-
7	defense lines of effort of the Department;
8	"(ii) clarify, as necessary, biodefense
9	roles, responsibilities, and capabilities of
10	the components and offices of the Depart-
11	ment involved in the biodefense lines of ef-
12	fort of the Department;
13	"(iii) establish how biodefense lines of
14	effort of the Department are to be coordi-
15	nated within the Department;
16	"(iv) establish how the Department
17	engages with public and private partners in
18	the biodefense enterprise, including other
19	Federal agencies, national laboratories and
20	sites, and State, local, and Tribal entities,
21	with specificity regarding the frequency
22	and nature of such engagement by Depart-
23	ment components and offices with State,
24	local, and Tribal entities; and
25	"(v) include information relating to—

1	"(I) milestones and performance
2	metrics that are specific to the bio-
3	defense mission and role of the De-
4	partment described in clause (i); and
5	"(II) implementation of any oper-
6	ational changes necessary to carry out
7	clauses (iii) and (iv).
8	"(4) Periodic update.—Beginning not later
9	than 5 years after the issuance of the biodefense
10	strategy and implementation plans required under
11	paragraph (3), and not less often than once every 5
12	years thereafter, the Secretary shall review and up-
13	date, as necessary, such strategy and plans.
14	"(5) Congressional oversight.—Not later
15	than 30 days after the issuance of the biodefense
16	strategy and implementation plans required under
17	paragraph (3), the Secretary shall brief the Com-
18	mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
19	fairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland
20	Security of the House of Representatives regarding
21	such strategy and plans.
22	"(c) Employee Morale.—Not later than 180 days
23	after the date of enactment of the Offices of Countering

24 Weapons of Mass Destruction and Health Security Act of

25 2023, the Office shall submit to and brief the appropriate

- 1 congressional committees on a strategy and plan to con-
- 2 tinuously improve morale within the Office.
- 3 "(d) Comptroller General.—Not later than 1
- 4 year after the date of enactment of the Offices of Coun-
- 5 tering Weapons of Mass Destruction and Health Security
- 6 Act of 2023, the Comptroller General of the United States
- 7 shall conduct a review of and brief the appropriate con-
- 8 gressional committees on—
- 9 "(1) the efforts of the Office to prioritize the
- programs and activities that carry out the mission of
- the Office, including research and development;
- 12 "(2) the consistency and effectiveness of stake-
- holder coordination across the mission of the De-
- partment, including operational and support compo-
- 15 nents of the Department and State and local enti-
- ties; and
- 17 "(3) the efforts of the Office to manage and co-
- ordinate the lifecycle of research and development
- within the Office and with other components of the
- 20 Department, including the Science and Technology
- 21 Directorate.
- 22 "(e) National Academies of Sciences, Engi-
- 23 NEERING, AND MEDICINE.—
- 24 "(1) Study.—The Secretary shall enter into an
- agreement with the National Academies of Sciences,

1	Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a consensus
2	study and report to the Secretary and the appro-
3	priate congressional committees on—
4	"(A) the role of the Department in pre-
5	paring, detecting, and responding to biological
6	and health security threats to the homeland;
7	"(B) recommendations to improve depart-
8	mental biosurveillance efforts against biological
9	threats, including any relevant biological detec-
10	tion methods and technologies; and
11	"(C) the feasibility of different techno-
12	logical advances for biodetection compared to
13	the cost, risk reduction, and timeliness of those
14	advances.
15	"(2) Briefing.—Not later than 1 year after
16	the date on which the Secretary receives the report
17	required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
18	brief the appropriate congressional committees on—
19	"(A) the implementation of the rec-
20	ommendations included in the report; and
21	"(B) the status of biological detection at
22	the Department, and, if applicable, timelines for
23	the transition to updated technology.
24	"(f) Advisory Council.—

1 "(1) Establishment.—Not later than 180 2 days after the date of enactment of the Offices of 3 Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction and 4 Health Security Act of 2023, the Secretary shall es-5 tablish an advisory body to advise on the ongoing co-6 ordination of the efforts of the Department to 7 counter weapons of mass destruction and chemical, 8 biological, radiological, nuclear, and other related 9 emerging threats, to be known as the Advisory 10 Council for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruc-11 tion (in this subsection referred to as the 'Advisory 12 Council'). 13 "(2) Membership.—The members of the Advi-14 sory Council shall— "(A) be appointed by the Assistant Sec-15 16 retary; and 17 "(B) to the extent practicable, represent a 18 geographic (including urban and rural) and 19 substantive cross section of officials, from 20 State, local, and Tribal governments, academia, 21 the private sector, national laboratories, and 22 nongovernmental organizations, including, as

appropriate—

1	"(i) members selected from the emer-
2	gency management field and emergency re-
3	sponse providers;
4	"(ii) State, local, and Tribal govern-
5	ment officials;
6	"(iii) experts in the public and private
7	sectors with expertise in chemical, biologi-
8	cal, radiological, and nuclear materials, de-
9	vices, or agents;
10	"(iv) representatives from the national
11	laboratories; and
12	"(v) such other individuals as the As-
13	sistant Secretary determines to be appro-
14	priate.
15	"(3) Responsibilities.— The Advisory Coun-
16	cil shall—
17	"(A) advise the Assistant Secretary on all
18	aspects of countering weapons of mass destruc-
19	tion and chemical, biological, radiological, nu-
20	clear, and other related emerging threats;
21	"(B) incorporate State, local, and Tribal
22	government, national laboratories, and private
23	sector input in the development of the strategy
24	and implementation plan of the Department for
25	countering weapons of mass destruction and

1 chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and 2 other related emerging threats; and 3 "(C) provide advice on performance cri-4 teria for a national biological detection system 5 and review the testing protocol for biological de-6 tection prototypes. "(4) Consultation.—To ensure input from 7 8 and coordination with State, local, and Tribal gov-9 ernments, the Assistant Secretary shall regularly 10 consult and work with the Advisory Council on the 11 administration of Federal assistance provided by the 12 Department, including with respect to the develop-13 ment of requirements of Office programs, as appro-14 priate. "(5) VOLUNTARY SERVICE.—The members of 15 16 the Advisory Council shall serve on the Advisory 17 Council on a voluntary basis. 18 "(6) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee 19 Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory 20 Council.". 21 (b) Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction ACT OF 2018.—Section 2 of the Countering Weapons of 23 Mass Destruction Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–387; 132) Stat. 5162) is amended—

1	(1) in subsection (b)(2) (6 U.S.C. 591 note), by
2	striking "1927" and inserting "1926"; and
3	(2) in subsection (g) (6 U.S.C. 591 note)—
4	(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
5	by striking "one year after the date of the en-
6	actment of this Act, and annually thereafter,"
7	and inserting "June 30 of each year,"; and
8	(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "Secu-
9	rity, including research and development activi-
10	ties" and inserting "Security".
11	(c) Security and Accountability for Every
12	PORT ACT OF 2006.—The Security and Accountability for
13	Every Port Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is amend-
14	ed—
15	(1) in section 1(b) (Public Law 109–347; 120
16	Stat 1884), by striking the item relating to section
17	502; and
18	(2) by striking section 502 (6 U.S.C. 592a).
19	SEC. 102. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.
20	Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
21	Act may be construed as modifying any existing authority
22	under any provision of law not expressly amended by this
23	Act

TITLE II—OFFICE OF HEALTH 1 **SECURITY** 2 SEC. 201. OFFICE OF HEALTH SECURITY. (a) Establishment.—The Homeland Security Act 4 of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended— 5 6 (1) in section 103 (6 U.S.C. 113)— 7 (A) in subsection (a)(2)— 8 (i) by striking "the Assistant Sec-9 retary for Health Affairs,"; and (ii) by striking "Affairs, or" and in-10 11 serting "Affairs or"; and 12 (B) in subsection (d), by adding at the end 13 the following: 14 "(6) A Chief Medical Officer."; 15 (2) by adding at the end the following: "TITLE XXIII—OFFICE OF 16 **HEALTH SECURITY":** 17 18 (3) by redesignating section 1931 (6 U.S.C. 19 597) as section 2301 and transferring such section 20 to appear after the heading for title XXIII, as added 21 by paragraph (2); 22 (4) in section 2301, as so redesignated— 23 (A) in the section heading, by striking "CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER" and inserting 24 25 "OFFICE OF HEALTH SECURITY";

1	(B) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and
2	inserting the following:
3	"(a) In General.—There is established in the De-
4	partment an Office of Health Security.
5	"(b) Head of Office of Health Security.—The
6	Office of Health Security shall be headed by a chief med-
7	ical officer, who shall—
8	"(1) be the Assistant Secretary for Health Se-
9	curity and the Chief Medical Officer of the Depart-
10	ment;
11	"(2) be a licensed physician possessing a dem-
12	onstrated ability in and knowledge of medicine and
13	public health;
14	"(3) be appointed by the President; and
15	"(4) report directly to the Secretary.";
16	(C) in subsection (c)—
17	(i) in the matter preceding paragraph
18	(1), by striking "medical issues related to
19	natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and
20	other man-made disasters" and inserting
21	"medical activities of the Department and
22	all workforce-focused health and safety ac-
23	tivities of the Department";
24	(ii) in paragraph (1), by striking ",
25	the Administrator of the Federal Emer-

1	gency Management Agency, the Assistant
2	Secretary, and other Department officials"
3	and inserting "and all other Department
4	officials";
5	(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking
6	"and" at the end;
7	(iv) by redesignating paragraph (5) as
8	paragraph (13); and
9	(v) by inserting after paragraph (4)
10	the following:
11	"(5) overseeing all medical activities of the De-
12	partment, including the delivery, advisement, and
13	support of direct patient care and the organization,
14	management, and staffing of component operations
15	that deliver direct patient care;
16	"(6) advising the head of each component of
17	the Department that delivers direct patient care re-
18	garding the recruitment and appointment of a com-
19	ponent chief medical officer and deputy chief med-
20	ical officer or the employee who functions in the ca-
21	pacity of chief medical officer and deputy chief med-
22	ical officer;
23	"(7) advising the Secretary and the head of
24	each component of the Department that delivers di-
25	rect patient care regarding knowledge and skill

1	standards for medical personnel and the assessment
2	of that knowledge and skill;
3	"(8) in coordination with the Chief Privacy Of-
1	ficer of the Department and the Chief Information

- officer of the Department and the Chief Information
 Officer of the Department, advising the Secretary
 and the head of each component of the Department
 that delivers patient care regarding the collection,
- 8 storage, and oversight of medical records;

- "(9) with respect to any psychological health counseling or assistance program of the Department, including such a program of a law enforcement, operational, or support component of the Department, advising the head of each such component with such a program regarding—
 - "(A) ensuring such program includes safeguards against adverse action, including automatic referrals for a fitness for duty examination, by such component with respect to any employee solely because such employee selfidentifies a need for psychological health counseling or assistance or receives such counseling or assistance;
 - "(B) increasing the availability and number of local psychological health professionals

1	with experience providing psychological support
2	services to personnel;
3	"(C) establishing a behavioral health cur-
4	riculum for employees at the beginning of their
5	careers to provide resources early regarding the
6	importance of psychological health;
7	"(D) establishing periodic management
8	training on crisis intervention and such compo-
9	nent's psychological health counseling or assist-
10	ance program;
11	"(E) improving any associated existing em-
12	ployee peer support programs, including by
13	making additional training and resources avail-
14	able for peer support personnel in the work-
15	place across such component;
16	"(F) developing and implementing a vol-
17	untary alcohol treatment program that includes
18	a safe harbor for employees who seek treat-
19	ment;
20	"(G) prioritizing, as appropriate, expertise
21	in the provision of psychological health coun-
22	seling and assistance for certain populations of
23	the workforce, such as employees serving in po-
24	sitions within law enforcement, to help improve

1	outcomes for those employees receiving that
2	counseling or assistance; and
3	"(H) including, when appropriate, collabo-
4	rating and partnering with key employee stake-
5	holders and, for those components with employ-
6	ees with an exclusive representative, the exclu-
7	sive representative with respect to such a pro-
8	gram;
9	"(10) in consultation with the Chief Informa-
10	tion Officer of the Department—
11	"(A) identifying methods and technologies
12	for managing, updating, and overseeing patient
13	records; and
14	"(B) setting standards for technology used
15	by the components of the Department regarding
16	the collection, storage, and oversight of medical
17	records;
18	"(11) advising the Secretary and the head of
19	each component of the Department that delivers di-
20	rect patient care regarding contracts for the delivery
21	of direct patient care, other medical services, and
22	medical supplies;
23	"(12) coordinating with the Countering Weap-
24	ons of Mass Destruction Office and other compo-
25	nents of the Department as directed by the Sec-

1	retary, Federal agencies including the Department
2	of Agriculture, the Department of Health and
3	Human Services, the Department of State, and the
4	Department of Transportation, State, local, and
5	Tribal governments, and the medical community;
6	and"; and
7	(D) by adding at the end the following:
8	"(d) Assistance and Agreements.—The Sec-
9	retary, acting through the Chief Medical Officer, in sup-
10	port of the medical activities of the Department, may—
11	"(1) provide technical assistance, training, and
12	information to State, local, and Tribal governments
13	and nongovernmental organizations;
14	"(2) enter into agreements with other Federal
15	agencies; and
16	"(3) accept services from personnel of compo-
17	nents of the Department and other Federal agencies
18	on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis.
19	"(e) Office of Health Security Privacy Offi-
20	CER.—There shall be a Privacy Officer in the Office of
21	Health Security with primary responsibility for privacy
22	policy and compliance within the Office, who shall—
23	"(1) report directly to the Chief Medical Offi-
24	cer; and

"(2) ensure privacy protections are integrated into all Office of Health Security activities, subject to the review and approval of the Chief Privacy Officer of the Department to the extent consistent with the authority of the Chief Privacy Officer of the Department under section 222.

"(f) Accountability.—

- "(1) STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Secretary shall create a Departmentwide strategy and implementation plan to address medical activities of, and the workforce health and safety matters under the purview of, the Department.
- "(2) Briefing.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the organizational transformations of the Office of Health Security, including how best practices were used in the creation of the Office of Health Security.";
- (5) by redesignating section 710 (6 U.S.C. 350) as section 2302 and transferring such section to appear after section 2301, as so redesignated;
- 25 (6) in section 2302, as so redesignated—

1	(A) in the section heading, by striking
2	"MEDICAL SUPPORT" and inserting "SAFE-
3	TY '';
4	(B) in subsection (a), by striking "Under
5	Secretary for Management" each place that
6	term appears and inserting "Chief Medical Offi-
7	cer"; and
8	(C) in subsection (b)—
9	(i) in the matter preceding paragraph
10	(1), by striking "Under Secretary for Man-
11	agement, in coordination with the Chief
12	Medical Officer," and inserting "Chief
13	Medical Officer"; and
14	(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking "as
15	deemed appropriate by the Under Sec-
16	retary,";
17	(7) by redesignating section 528 (6 U.S.C.
18	321q) as section 2303 and transferring such section
19	to appear after section 2302, as so redesignated;
20	(8) in section 2303, as so redesignated—
21	(A) in subsection (a), by striking "Assist-
22	ant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of
23	Mass Destruction Office" and inserting "Chief
24	Medical Officer"; and
25	(B) in subsection (b)—

1	(i) in paragraph (1), by striking
2	"Homeland Security Presidential Directive
3	9-Defense of the United States Agriculture
4	and Food" and inserting "National Secu-
5	rity Memorandum 16—Strengthening the
6	Security and Resilience of the United
7	States Food and Agriculture'; and
8	(ii) in paragraph (6), by inserting
9	"the Department of Agriculture and
10	other" before "appropriate";
11	(9) by redesignating section 1932 (6 U.S.C.
12	597a) as section 2304 and transferring such section
13	to appear after section 2303, as so redesignated;
14	(10) in section $2304(f)(2)(B)$, as so redesig-
15	nated, by striking "Office of the Assistant Secretary
16	for Preparedness and Response" and inserting "Ad-
17	ministration for Strategic Preparedness and Re-
18	sponse"; and
19	(11) by inserting after section 2304, as so re-
20	designated, the following:
21	"SEC. 2305. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.
22	"Nothing in this title shall be construed to—
23	"(1) override or otherwise affect the require-
24	ments described in section 888:

- "(2) require the advice of the Chief Medical Officer on the appointment of Coast Guard officers or the officer from the Public Health Service of the Department of Health and Human Services assigned to the Coast Guard;
 - "(3) provide the Chief Medical Officer with authority to take any action that would diminish the interoperability of the Coast Guard medical system with the medical systems of the other branches of the Armed Forces of the United States; or
 - "(4) affect or diminish the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or to grant to the Chief Medical Officer any authority that is vested in, or delegated to, the Secretary of Health and Human Services.".

(b) Transition and Transfers.—

(1) Transition.—The individual appointed pursuant to section 1931 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 597) of the Department of Homeland Security, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, and serving as the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Security on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue to serve as the Chief Medical Officer of the Department on and after the

1	date of enactment of this Act without the need for
2	reappointment.
3	(2) Transfer.—The Secretary of Homeland
4	Security shall transfer to the Chief Medical Officer
5	of the Department of Homeland Security—
6	(A) all functions, personnel, budget author-
7	ity, and assets of the Under Secretary for Man-
8	agement relating to workforce health and safe-
9	ty, as in existence on the day before the date
10	of enactment of this Act;
11	(B) all functions, personnel, budget au-
12	thority, and assets of the Assistant Secretary
13	for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruc-
14	tion Office relating to the Chief Medical Officer,
15	including the Medical Operations Directorate of
16	the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

(C) all functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office associated with the efforts pertaining to the program coordination activities relating to defending the food, agriculture, and veterinary

Office, as in existence on the day before the

date of enactment of this Act; and

1	defenses of the Office, as in existence on the
2	day before the date of enactment of this Act.
3	SEC. 202. CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSUR-
4	ANCE RECORDS.
5	Title XXIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002,
6	as added by this Act, is amended by adding at the end
7	the following:
8	"SEC. 2306. CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL QUALITY AS-
9	SURANCE RECORDS.
10	"(a) Definitions.—In this section:
11	"(1) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term
12	'health care provider' means an individual who—
13	"(A) is—
14	"(i) an employee of the Department;
15	"(ii) a detailee to the Department
16	from another Federal agency;
17	"(iii) a personal services contractor of
18	the Department; or
19	"(iv) hired under a contract for serv-
20	ices;
21	"(B) performs health care services as part
22	of duties of the individual in that capacity; and
23	"(C) has a current, valid, and unrestricted
24	license or certification—

1 "(i) that is issued by a State, the Dis-2 trict of Columbia, or a commonwealth, ter-3 ritory, or possession of the United States; 4 and

- "(ii) that is for the practice of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing, emergency medical services, or another health profession.
- "(2)MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PRO-GRAM.—The term 'medical quality assurance program' means any activity carried out on or after the date of enactment of this section by the Department to assess the quality of medical care, including activities conducted by individuals, committees, or other review bodies responsible for quality assurance, credentials, infection control, incident reporting, the delivery, advisement, and support of direct patient care and assessment (including treatment procedures, blood, drugs, and therapeutics), medical records, health resources management review, and identification and prevention of medical, mental health, or dental incidents and risks.
- "(3) Medical quality assurance record of the Department' means the pro-

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1	ceedings, records (including patient records that the
2	Department creates and maintains as part of a sys-
3	tem of records), minutes, and reports that—
4	"(A) emanate from quality assurance pro-
5	gram activities described in paragraph (2); and
6	"(B) are produced or compiled by the De-
7	partment as part of a medical quality assurance
8	program.
9	"(b) Confidentiality of Records.—A medical
10	quality assurance record of the Department that is created
11	as part of a medical quality assurance program—
12	"(1) is confidential and privileged; and
13	"(2) except as provided in subsection (d), may
14	not be disclosed to any person or entity.
15	"(c) Prohibition on Disclosure and Testi-
16	MONY.—Except as otherwise provided in this section—
17	"(1) no part of any medical quality assurance
18	record of the Department may be subject to dis-
19	covery or admitted into evidence in any judicial or
20	administrative proceeding; and
21	"(2) an individual who reviews or creates a
22	medical quality assurance record of the Department
23	or who participates in any proceeding that reviews
24	or creates a medical quality assurance record of the
25	Department may not be permitted or required to

1	testify in any judicial or administrative proceeding
2	with respect to such record or with respect to any
3	finding, recommendation, evaluation, opinion, or ac-
4	tion taken by such individual in connection with
5	such record.
6	"(d) Authorized Disclosure and Testimony.—
7	"(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (2), a
8	medical quality assurance record of the Department
9	may be disclosed, and a person described in sub-
10	section (c)(2) may give testimony in connection with
11	the record, only as follows:
12	"(A) To a Federal agency or private orga-
13	nization, if such medical quality assurance
14	record of the Department or testimony is need-
15	ed by the Federal agency or private organiza-
16	tion to—
17	"(i) perform licensing or accreditation
18	functions related to Department health
19	care facilities, a facility affiliated with the
20	Department, or any other location author-
21	ized by the Secretary for the performance
22	of health care services; or
23	"(ii) perform monitoring, required by
24	law, of Department health care facilities, a
25	facility affiliated with the Department, or

any other location authorized by the Secretary for the performance of health care services.

- "(B) To an administrative or judicial proceeding concerning an adverse action related to the credentialing of or health care provided by a present or former health care provider by the Department.
- "(C) To a governmental board or agency or to a professional health care society or organization, if such medical quality assurance record of the Department or testimony is needed by the board, agency, society, or organization to perform licensing, credentialing, or the monitoring of professional standards with respect to any health care provider who is or was a health care provider for the Department.
- "(D) To a hospital, medical center, or other institution that provides health care services, if such medical quality assurance record of the Department or testimony is needed by such institution to assess the professional qualifications of any health care provider who is or was a health care provider for the Department and who has applied for or been granted authority

1	or employment to provide health care services
2	in or on behalf of the institution.
3	"(E) To an employee, a detailee, or a con-
4	tractor of the Department who has a need for
5	such medical quality assurance record of the
6	Department or testimony to perform official du-
7	ties or duties within the scope of their contract.
8	"(F) To a criminal or civil law enforce-
9	ment agency or instrumentality charged under
10	applicable law with the protection of the public
11	health or safety, if a qualified representative of
12	the agency or instrumentality makes a written
13	request that such medical quality assurance
14	record of the Department or testimony be pro-
15	vided for a purpose authorized by law.
16	"(G) In an administrative or judicial pro-
17	ceeding commenced by a criminal or civil law
18	enforcement agency or instrumentality de-
19	scribed in subparagraph (F), but only with re-
20	spect to the subject of the proceeding.
21	"(2) Personally identifiable informa-
22	TION.—
23	"(A) In general.—With the exception of
24	the subject of a quality assurance action, per-
25	sonally identifiable information of any person

1 receiving health care services from the Depart-2 ment or of any other person associated with the 3 Department for purposes of a medical quality 4 assurance program that is disclosed in a med-5 ical quality assurance record of the Department 6 shall be deleted from that record before any dis-7 closure of the record is made outside the De-8 partment.

- "(B) APPLICATION.—The requirement under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the release of information that is permissible under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Privacy Act of 1974').
- 15 "(e) DISCLOSURE FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.—Noth-16 ing in this section shall be construed—

"(1) to authorize or require the withholding 17 18 from any person or entity de-identified aggregate 19 statistical information regarding the results of med-20 ical quality assurance programs, under de-identifica-21 tion standards developed by the Secretary in con-22 sultation with the Secretary of Health and Human 23 Services, as appropriate, that is released in a man-24 ner in accordance with all other applicable legal re-25 quirements; or

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- 1 "(2) to authorize the withholding of any med-
- 2 ical quality assurance record of the Department
- from a committee of either House of Congress, any
- 4 joint committee of Congress, or the Comptroller
- 5 General of the United States if the record pertains
- 6 to any matter within their respective jurisdictions.
- 7 "(f) Prohibition on Disclosure of Informa-
- 8 TION, RECORD, OR TESTIMONY.—A person or entity hav-
- 9 ing possession of or access to a medical quality assurance
- 10 record of the Department or testimony described in this
- 11 section may not disclose the contents of the record or testi-
- 12 mony in any manner or for any purpose except as provided
- 13 in this section.
- 14 "(g) Exemption From Freedom of Information
- 15 Act.—A medical quality assurance record of the Depart-
- 16 ment shall be exempt from disclosure under section
- 17 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.
- 18 "(h) Limitation on Civil Liability.—A person
- 19 who participates in the review or creation of, or provides
- 20 information to a person or body that reviews or creates,
- 21 a medical quality assurance record of the Department
- 22 shall not be civilly liable under this section for that partici-
- 23 pation or for providing that information if the participa-
- 24 tion or provision of information was—

- 1 "(1) provided in good faith based on prevailing 2 professional standards at the time the medical qual-
- 3 ity assurance program activity took place; and
- 4 "(2) made in accordance with any other appli-
- 5 cable legal requirement, including Federal privacy
- 6 laws and regulations.
- 7 "(i) Application to Information in Certain
- 8 OTHER RECORDS.—Nothing in this section shall be con-
- 9 strued as limiting access to the information in a record
- 10 created and maintained outside a medical quality assur-
- 11 ance program, including the medical record of a patient,
- 12 on the grounds that the information was presented during
- 13 meetings of a review body that are part of a medical qual-
- 14 ity assurance program.
- 15 "(j) Penalty.—Any person who willfully discloses a
- 16 medical quality assurance record of the Department other
- 17 than as provided in this section, knowing that the record
- 18 is a medical quality assurance record of the Department
- 19 shall be fined not more than \$3,000 in the case of a first
- 20 offense and not more than \$20,000 in the case of a subse-
- 21 quent offense.
- 22 "(k) Relationship to Coast Guard.—The re-
- 23 quirements of this section shall not apply to any medical
- 24 quality assurance record of the Department that is created

- 1 by or for the Coast Guard as part of a medical quality
- 2 assurance program.
- 3 "(1) CONTINUED PROTECTION.—Disclosure under
- 4 subsection (d) does not permit redisclosure except to the
- 5 extent the further disclosure is authorized under sub-
- 6 section (d) or is otherwise authorized to be disclosed under
- 7 this section.
- 8 "(m) Relationship to Other Law.—This section
- 9 shall continue in force and effect, except as otherwise spe-
- 10 cifically provided in any Federal law enacted after the date
- 11 of enactment of this Act.
- 12 "(n) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this sec-
- 13 tion shall be construed to supersede the requirements of—
- 14 "(1) the Health Insurance Portability and Ac-
- 15 countability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–191; 110
- 16 Stat. 1936) and its implementing regulations;
- 17 "(2) the Health Information Technology for
- 18 Economic and Clinical Health Act(42 U.S.C. 17931
- 19 et seq.) and its implementing regulations; or
- 20 "(3) sections 921 through 926 of the Public
- 21 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299b–21 through
- 22 299b–26) and their implementing regulations.".
- 23 SEC. 203. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.
- The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101
- 25 et seq.) is amended—

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1
               (1) in the table of contents in section 1(b)
 2
         (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135)—
 3
                    (A) by striking the items relating to sec-
 4
               tions 528 and 529 and inserting the following:
    "Sec. 528. Transfer of equipment during a public health emergency.";
 5
                    (B) by striking the items relating to sec-
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               tions 710, 711, 712, and 713 and inserting the
 7
               following:
    "Sec. 710. Employee engagement.
    "Sec. 711. Annual employee award program.
    "Sec. 712. Acquisition professional career program.";
 8
                    (C) by inserting after the item relating to
 9
               section 1928 the following:
    "Sec. 1929. Accountability.";
10
                    (D) by striking the items relating to sub-
11
               title C of title XIX and sections 1931 and
12
               1932; and
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                    (E) by adding at the end the following:
              "TITLE XXIII—OFFICE OF HEALTH SECURITY
    "Sec. 2301. Office of Health Security.
    "Sec. 2302. Workforce health and safety.
    "Sec. 2303. Coordination of Department of Homeland Security efforts related
                  to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism.
    "Sec. 2304. Medical countermeasures.
    "Sec. 2305. Rules of construction.
    "Sec. 2306. Confidentiality of medical quality assurance records.";
14
               (2) by redesignating section 529 (6 U.S.C.
15
         321r) as section 528;
               (3) in section 704(e)(4) (6 U.S.C. 344(e)(4)),
16
         by striking "section 711(a)" and inserting "section
17
18
         710(a))";
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1	(4) by redesignating sections 711, 712, and 713
2	as sections 710, 711, and 712, respectively;
3	(5) in section $1923(d)(3)$ (6 U.S.C.
4	592(d)(3))—
5	(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
6	"HAWAHAN NATIVE-SERVING" and inserting
7	"Native Hawahan-Serving"; and
8	(B) by striking "Hawaiian native-serving"
9	and inserting "'Native Hawaiian-serving"; and
10	(6) by striking the subtitle heading for subtitle
11	C of title XIX.

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