

November 28, 2018

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510 -3603

Subject: Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act of 2018, HR 6198

Dear Senator Inhofe,

We are writing to ask for your support to ensure timely passage of the subject legislation, which is also mentioned in the DHS Authorization Act (HR 2825). The operational concepts embodied in the new DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Office will have a major impact on the nation's preparedness and the effectiveness of the millions of emergency responders whose service is essential to maintaining it. The CWMD Office is poised to exploit the commonalities of various vectors of WMD terrorism, while pursuing effective strategies to prepare for and respond to each of the major threat areas. We understand that though this legislation had been hotlined to ensure prompt passage, the Armed Services Committee has placed a hold on it that may jeopardize its passage in this session. Failure to pass this bill will significantly impede efforts to address chemical and biological terrorist threats.

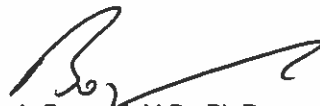
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Passage of this legislation will directly benefit responders throughout the country. Thank you for your consideration of this matter and, on behalf of the nation's emergency responders, we hope that you will be able to support moving this bill forward. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any further information.

Sincerely,



Gerard Fontana
IAB Chair
Chief of Operations, Boston Fire Department



Sandy Bogucki, M.D., Ph.D.
IAB Deputy Chair,
Professor of Emergency Medicine and
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John Incontro
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