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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_\_

To enhance authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to respond to the public health emergencies, to provide additional oversight of such authorities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. VARGAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To enhance authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to respond to the public health emergencies, to provide additional oversight of such authorities, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Public Health Emer-  
5 gency Medical Supplies Enhancement Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.**

2 (a) FUTURE PREPAREDNESS FOR HEALTH EMER-  
3 GENCIES.—Section 702(14) of the Defense Production  
4 Act of 1950 is amended by striking “and critical infra-  
5 structure protection and restoration” and inserting “, crit-  
6 ical infrastructure protection and restoration, and public  
7 health emergency preparedness and response activities”.

8 (b) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The Defense  
9 Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) is  
10 amended by inserting after section 711 the following:

11 **“SEC. 712. PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.**

12 “(a) SCARCE AND CRITICAL MATERIALS.—During a  
13 public health emergency, any medical equipment or sup-  
14 plies determined by the Secretary of Health and Human  
15 Services or the Secretary of Homeland Security to be  
16 scarce and critical materials essential to the national de-  
17 fense for purposes of section 101 may be deemed by the  
18 President to be a scarce and critical material essential to  
19 the national defense for purposes of section 101 and other-  
20 wise meet the requirements of section 101(b), and funds  
21 available to implement this Act may be used for the pur-  
22 chase, production (including the construction, repair, and  
23 retrofitting of government-owned facilities as necessary),  
24 or distribution of such medical equipment or supplies.

25 “(b) EXERCISE OF TITLE I AUTHORITIES IN RELA-  
26 TION TO CONTRACTS BY STATE, LOCAL, OR TRIBAL GOV-

1 ERNMENTS.—In exercising authorities under title I during  
2 a public health emergency, the President (and any officer  
3 or employee of the United States to which authorities  
4 under such title I have been delegated)—

5           “(1) may exercise the prioritization or alloca-  
6           tion authority provided in such title I to exclude any  
7           materials or supplies described in subsection (a) or-  
8           dered by a State, local, or Tribal government that  
9           are scheduled to be delivered within 15 days of the  
10          time at which—

11                   “(A) the purchase order or contract by the  
12                   Federal Government for such materials or sup-  
13                   plies is made; or

14                   “(B) the materials or supplies are other-  
15                   wise allocated by the Federal Government  
16                   under the authorities contained in this Act; and

17          “(2) shall, within 24 hours of any exercise of  
18          the prioritization or allocation authority provided in  
19          such title I—

20                   “(A) to the extent practicable notify any  
21                   State, local, or Tribal government if the Presi-  
22                   dent determines that the exercise of such au-  
23                   thorities would delay the receipt of such mate-  
24                   rials or supplies ordered by such government;  
25                   and

1           “(B) take such steps as may be necessary,  
2           and as authorized by law, to ensure that such  
3           materials or supplies ordered by such govern-  
4           ment are delivered in the shortest possible pe-  
5           riod, consistent with the purposes of this Act.

6           “(c) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—

7           “(1) OUTREACH REPRESENTATIVE.—Consistent  
8           with the authorities in this title VII, the Adminis-  
9           trator of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
10          cy, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and  
11          Human Services, may designate or appoint, pursu-  
12          ant to section 703, an individual to be known as the  
13          ‘Outreach Representative’ for any public health  
14          emergency. Such individual shall—

15                 “(A) be appointed from among individuals  
16                 with substantial experience in the production or  
17                 distribution of medical supplies or equipment;  
18                 and

19                 “(B) act as the Government-wide single  
20                 point of contact during the public health emer-  
21                 gency for outreach to manufacturing companies  
22                 and their suppliers who may be interested in  
23                 producing medical supplies or equipment, in-  
24                 cluding the materials described under sub-  
25                 section (a).

1           “(2) ENCOURAGING PARTNERSHIPS.—During a  
2           public health emergency, the Outreach Representa-  
3           tive shall seek to develop partnerships between com-  
4           panies, in coordination with any overall coordinator  
5           appointed by the President to oversee the response  
6           to the public health emergency, including through  
7           the exercise of the authorities delegated by the  
8           President under section 708.

9           “(d) ENHANCEMENT OF SUPPLY CHAIN PRODUC-  
10          TION.—In exercising authority under title III during a  
11          public health emergency with respect to materials de-  
12          scribed in subsection (a), the President shall seek to en-  
13          sure that support is provided to companies that comprise  
14          the supply chains for reagents, components, raw materials,  
15          and other materials and items necessary to produce or use  
16          the materials described in subsection (a), if applicable, to  
17          the extent necessary for the national defense during the  
18          public health emergency.

19          “(e) ENHANCED REPORTING DURING A PUBLIC  
20          HEALTH EMERGENCY.—

21                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days  
22                 after the use of authorities under this Act with re-  
23                 spect to a public health emergency, and every 120  
24                 days thereafter until the termination of such public  
25                 health emergency, the President, in consultation

1 with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency  
2 Management Agency, the Secretary of Defense, and  
3 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall  
4 submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
5 a report on the exercise of authorities under titles I,  
6 III, and VII with respect to the public health emer-  
7 gency.

8 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required under  
9 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each  
11 exercise of such authority—

12 “(i) an explanation of the purpose of  
13 the applicable contract, purchase order, or  
14 other exercise of authority (including an  
15 allocation of materials, services, and facili-  
16 ties under section 101(a)(2));

17 “(ii) the cost of such exercise of au-  
18 thority; and

19 “(iii) if applicable—

20 “(I) the amount of goods that  
21 were purchased or allocated;

22 “(II) an identification of the enti-  
23 ty awarded a contract or purchase  
24 order or that was the subject of the  
25 exercise of authority; and

1                   “(III) an identification of any en-  
2                   tity that had shipments delayed by the  
3                   exercise of any authority under this  
4                   Act.

5                   “(B) CONSULTATIONS.—A description of  
6                   any consultations conducted with relevant  
7                   stakeholders on the needs addressed by the ex-  
8                   ercise of the authorities described in paragraph  
9                   (1).

10                  “(3) UPDATE.—The President shall provide an  
11                  additional briefing to the appropriate congressional  
12                  committees on the matters described under para-  
13                  graph (2) no later than four months after the sub-  
14                  mission of each report.

15                  “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16                  “(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
17                  TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-  
18                  mittees’ means the Committees on Appropriations,  
19                  Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, Financial  
20                  Services, and Homeland Security of the House of  
21                  Representatives and the Committees on Appropria-  
22                  tions, Armed Services, Banking, Housing, and  
23                  Urban Affairs, Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-  
24                  sions, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,  
25                  and Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.

1           “(2) RELEVANT STAKEHOLDER.—The term  
2           ‘relevant stakeholder’ means—

3                   “(A) representative private sector entities;

4                   “(B) representatives of the nonprofit sec-  
5           tor;

6                   “(C) representatives of primary and sec-  
7           ondary school systems; and

8                   “(D) representatives of organizations rep-  
9           resenting workers, including health workers,  
10          manufacturers, teachers, other public sector  
11          employees, and service sector workers.

12          “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of  
13          the several States, the District of Columbia, the  
14          Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or  
15          possession of the United States.”.

16          (c) UPDATE TO FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—

17                  (1) DPAS.—Not later than 30 days after the  
18          date of enactment of this Act, the Defense Property  
19          Accountability System regulations (15 C.F.R. part  
20          700) shall be revised to reflect the requirements of  
21          section 712(b) of the Defense Production Act of  
22          1950.

23                  (2) FAR.—Not later than 30 days after the re-  
24          visions required by paragraph (1) are made, the  
25          Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be revised to



1 reflect the requirements of section 712(b) of the De-  
2 fense Production Act of 1950, consistent with the  
3 revisions made pursuant to paragraph (1).

4 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES INVOLVING SMALL BUSI-**  
5 **NESS.**

6 The report required by section 304(f)(3) of the De-  
7 fense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4534(f)(3)) with  
8 respect to fiscal years 2023 and 2024 shall include the  
9 percentage of contracts awarded using funds to carry out  
10 the Defense Production Act of 1950 for each of the fiscal  
11 years 2023 and 2024, respectively, to small business con-  
12 cerns (as defined under section 702 of such Act).