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Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Senator Burr and Senator Casey,

The Pew Charitable Trusts thanks you for your continued efforts to respond to the ongoing threat of antibiotic resistance through the introduction of S. 2852, Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2018 (PAHPAI). This piece of legislation reauthorizes the essential work of Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to address public health emergencies and bring desperately-needed antibiotics to patients. Effective antibacterials are central to the nation's ability to respond to public health threats, including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear attacks (CBRN), pandemic influenza, and emerging infectious disease – antibiotics are a part of the nation's armament to address these threats.

We want to thank the Members of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions for including language related to antibiotic resistance in Section 404 of PAHPAI. This language will ensure BARDA is explicitly authorized to address all CBRN threats – both intentional and naturally occurring – through robust support of innovative approaches in both preclinical and clinical development. BARDA's unique experience working with industry to drive innovation is particularly important to advance novel therapeutics and preventive approaches and to help bridge the gap between basic science and clinical development.

BARDA safeguards our nation's health infrastructure by revitalizing and encouraging antibacterial innovation to ensure that we have a healthy pool of candidate products to address emerging threats. The CARB-X accelerator addresses critical gaps along the early stages of the antibacterial pipeline, and BARDA's Broad Spectrum Antimicrobials program advances therapeutics into late stage clinical development. The two work in tandem to ensure a robust pipeline of novel approaches for highly resistant infections and emerging threat pathogens.

Thank you for continued support of this important work.

Sincerely,

Kathy Talkington
Antibiotic Resistance Project Director