

**ABSA**

American Biological Safety Association

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To: United States Congress

Dear Elected Representatives,

The American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) is requesting continued support for biosafety and biosecurity training initiatives for research and diagnostic programs in the United States and the world. ABSA is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 to promote biosafety as a scientific discipline and to serve the needs of biosafety professionals. Additional information about ABSA is available on our website at [www.absa.org](http://www.absa.org).

Training programs are more critical than ever due to the increasing global research and public health effort to find better tests, treatments and vaccines to combat infectious disease threats to global health. Laboratories conducting these activities have an urgent need for qualified, well-trained researchers and support staff to prevent occupational and community exposure as well as accidental or intentional release of the pathogens involved. Because society has a critical need for improvements in infectious disease detection, treatment and prevention, we also need effective biosafety training programs to reduce the biosafety and biosecurity risk of these operations. Please fund programs that are providing this vital service. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Byers, MS, RBP, CBSP  
ABSA President, 2010-2011