

Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 12:02 PM

To: Keiser, Andy

Subject: Protecting Against Chemical, Biological Weapon Attacks

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Bill Introduced to Protect Against Chemical, Biological Weapon Attacks

I introduced bipartisan legislation last week, H.R. 2405, to protect the United States against attacks from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons. As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and the anthrax attacks that followed, it is necessary to reauthorize the federal government's role in protecting the country from attack.

H.R. 2405 would reauthorize portions of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, including the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), which I originally authored in 2006. BARDA bridges the funding gap between early-stage research and the actual procurement of medical countermeasures. I believe this legislation is vital in preparing the federal government to protect the public from chemical and biological weapon attacks.

In addition, Emergent BioSolutions' Lansing facility continues to be a leader under the BARDA program. Last year, Emergent expected to create up to 70 new jobs in the Lansing area with the contract they received under BARDA. The Lansing facility and its employees are essential partners with the federal government in building a strong emergency preparedness structure, and I hope the reauthorization of this program will continue to spur economic growth in Michigan.

To watch me to discuss this issue at George Washington University, please click [here](#) and to watch me discuss biological and chemical weapons on WXYZ in Detroit, please click [here](#).

House Passes Legislation to Create Jobs and Promote American Innovation

Last month, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act. This legislation contained much-needed reforms to our nation's patent system and will promote job creation, spur innovation and increase the United States' economic competitiveness.

Although America has historically been on the cutting edge of innovation and technological development, our patent system's backlog of 700,000 applications has been causing us to fall increasingly behind our global competitors. At a time when hardworking families in Michigan are still

struggling during the economic recovery, it is essential that federal policies encourage job creation and economic growth. I believe the America Invents Act is an important step in ensuring the United States remains at the forefront of global innovation.

Transforming Chronic Pain Care in America

Pain affects more than 116 million Americans annually, and is a major cause of work disability and one of the most common reasons people seek medical care. That is why I authored the National Pain Care Policy Act, which was signed into law last year.

This important law is aimed at expanding education, awareness, and research regarding chronic pain. One of the important provisions included in the law required the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to conduct a comprehensive report on how to improve treatment of chronic pain in the United States. I am pleased the IOM finished it's critical work last week and released its report entitled *Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research*.

You can read the report on improving chronic pain care [here](#).

Brighton Post Office Renamed

In the 111th Congress, Representative John Dingell introduced legislation to rename the Brighton Post Office after my mother, Joyce Rogers for her numerous accomplishments as a County Commissioner and longtime Executive Director of the Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce. On July 5, leaders from Livingston County came together for the formal dedication to name the Brighton Post Office the Joyce A. Rogers Post Office.

To read more about the commemoration ceremony in the *Livingston Daily Press & Argus*, please click [here](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to contact you. You can also follow my efforts on [YouTube](#) (RepMikeRogers) and [Facebook](#) (Mike J. Rogers). Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

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