



For Immediate Release

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Guarding Against Pandemics Expresses Support for The PREVENT Pandemics Act
Founder Gabe Bankman-Fried heralds the bipartisan bill passed by Senate HELP Committee as an important step toward preventing the next pandemic

WASHINGTON – Today, the PREVENT Pandemics Act ([S. 3799](#)) was approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee by a bipartisan vote of 20-2. The legislation, introduced by Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-N.C.), aims to strengthen the nation’s preparedness and response systems in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following is a statement from Gabe Bankman-Fried, founder of Guarding Against Pandemics (GAP), a nonprofit organization committed to advocating for public investments to prevent the next pandemic.

“The PREVENT Pandemics Act is a vital step toward ensuring we never again experience a pandemic like COVID-19, which has cost the U.S. \$16 trillion dollars and nearly 1 million lives to date. What we’ve learned from the COVID-19 experience is that we can never be too prepared to prevent a highly communicable and deadly public health threat, which experts are warning could happen again much sooner than we expect. Expanding our genomic sequencing capabilities, establishing a virus countermeasures research program and requiring the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to ensure vaccines and treatments can be made quickly in case of emergency are vital to preventing the next pandemic.

“Guarding Against Pandemics applauds Sens. Patty Murray and Richard Burr for their leadership on pandemic preparedness. We urge the Senate to swiftly pass this important legislation. We also urge lawmakers to adopt the additional provisions critical to preventing the next pandemic, including the \$65.3 billion in investments laid out in the president’s American Pandemic Preparedness Plan, [which 75% of Americans support](#). Preventing the next pandemic is the best investment we can make, and the time to act is now.”

About Guarding Against Pandemics

Guarding Against Pandemics (GAP) is a group of scientific and political experts formed during the COVID-19 pandemic and committed to preventing the next one.

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