



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Guarding Against Pandemics Thanks House Appropriators for to Senate HELP Committee Hearing; Urges Swift Action on Pandemic Prevention**

*Founder Gabe Bankman-Fried calls for swift and meaningful legislative action to prevent the next pandemic*

WASHINGTON – Today, the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Subcommittee invested in stopping pandemics with \$100 million more for BARDA, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee held a hearing on the “Ongoing Federal Response to COVID-19: Current Status and Future Planning.” During the hearing, expert witnesses, including CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, along with committee members from both sides of the aisle, stressed the importance of preparing today so we never again experience another COVID-19. In response to the hearing, Guarding Against Pandemics (GAP) founder Gabe Bankman-Fried issued the following statement.

“We don’t know where the next pandemic threat will come from, but we know all too well what it will cost us if we fail to adequately prepare. More than a million Americans have lost their lives to COVID-19, and our economy has suffered more than \$16 trillion in losses. There isn’t any time to spare. Our goal is to ensure COVID-19 was the last pandemic, but without action, we will face another, likely sooner than we think.

“Guarding Against Pandemics commends Chair Patty Murray, Ranking Member Richard Burr and the rest of the Senate HELP committee for holding this important hearing and keeping their focus on ensuring we are equipped to tackle the next pandemic head-on. We desperately and urgently need meaningful public investments like those laid out in the administration’s pandemic response and preparedness plan that will allow us to deploy vaccines and treatments, track threats as they unfold and manufacture more advanced masks and other protective equipment. These measures, combined with full funding of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), will help ensure we never again experience another COVID-19.”

### **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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