



TFAH APPLAUDS SENATE FOR APPROVING AVIAN FLU AMENDMENT

Contacts: Laura Segal (202) 223-9870 x 278 or lsegal@tfah.org

Washington, DC, September 29, 2005 – The following is a statement from Richard Hamburg, Director of Government Relations of Trust for America's Health (TFAH):

“Trust for America's Health (TFAH) commends the U.S. Senate for demonstrating strong leadership today in adopting an amendment to the Department of Defense appropriations bill (H.R. 2863) to support funds for pandemic flu preparedness.

The Senate should be strongly applauded for recognizing the seriousness of the threat and the significant investment that must be made to protect the nation's health. Today's actions will make a real difference toward minimizing the loss of life and economic disruption that could result from a pandemic flu outbreak.”

The amendment was introduced by Senators Tom Harkin (D-IO), Barack Obama (D-IL), Harry Reid (D-NV), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Evan Bayh (D-IN), and Chris Dodd (D-CT).

This amendment would provide \$3.913 billion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the stockpiling of antivirals and necessary medical supplies; global surveillance; increase vaccine capacity; grants to state and local public health agencies for emergency preparedness and hospital surge capacity; and risk communication and outreach.

According to TFAH estimates, model projections predict that a moderately severe strain of a pandemic flu could result in more than half a million deaths, two million hospitalizations, and 70 million cases in the U.S. alone.

TFAH pandemic flu-related materials are available at <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/flu/>

###

Trust for America's Health is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority. www.healthyamericans.org