

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Committee on Oversight and Reform
Full Committee Business Meeting
Opening Statement on H.R. 7548, The Made in America: Preparation for a Pandemic Act
September 16, 2020

As we navigate the challenges of the coronavirus crisis, we must turn to the spirit of ingenuity that has always fueled America's success and resilience. That spirit is what inspired the "Made in America: Preparation for a Pandemic Act."

This bill was written to unleash American manufacturing power to safeguard the country from the catastrophic shortages of medical supplies and personal protective equipment, or PPE, since the pandemic's outbreak.

A surgeon in California described it as being "at war with no ammo." A doctor in Kentucky said, "not only can I not protect myself, I can't protect my patients." Frontline workers in New York City resorted to wearing trash bags as gowns. We cannot allow the American people to suffer such shortages again.

The U.S. continues to rely on a fragile global supply chain for PPE, and timelines for scaling up domestic production remain uncertain.

The bill would require that Congress receive periodic reports on the nation's PPE supplies and whether those stocks would sustain us through various emergencies, including a global pandemic.

It also would require at least 25 percent of the PPE procured for the Strategic National Stockpile to be made in America, incentivizing the onshoring of critical supply chain capabilities and the domestic manufacturing of raw materials that could otherwise be critical chokepoints.

To ensure these new requirements would never limit PPE procurement for the Stockpile, the bill includes a waiver if domestically manufactured items capable of meeting our needs are not available.

The requirements also could be waived if they are inconsistent with public or national security interests or if they would increase the cost of a procurement above certain thresholds.

The bill also clarifies that the American manufacturing requirement would be applied in a manner that is consistent with our international agreements, including trade agreements. The national security nature of the threat it addresses ensures this consistency.

Finally, the bill would create a tax credit to level the playing field by helping American manufacturers with the costs of developing and expanding domestic production of PPE.

Today, China dominates the global market for medical supplies, and it has positioned itself to maintain that strategic advantage when the pandemic subsides. The United States must take decisive action to develop

our own domestic PPE production capacity—a commonsense goal that has bipartisan support in Congress and the White House.

During a hearing before the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, the Ranking Member, Republican Whip Steve Scalise, proclaimed that it is, quote, “in the national security interest of the United States of America to bring more of that manufacturing of things like PPE back into this country so we are not reliant on China in the future.”

The head of the FEMA Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force agreed. And both of them are absolutely right.

We must guarantee an adequate stock of PPE in the Strategic National Stockpile at all times. We must establish domestic supply chain incentives that put Americans to work, building the skills and materials we need to sustain us when our nation is hit with the unthinkable.

America has the spirit and skills to do it, and this bill charts the course. To save lives, create jobs, and enhance our resilience in the face of future global supply chain disruptions, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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