

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dr. Robert Kadlec
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

We are writing to ask that you consider the ongoing work to improve access to essential generic medicines, and the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) used to manufacture them. As you are no doubt aware, these issues are critical to our preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as securing and ensuring a domestic supply chain for their manufacture and stockpiling going forward.

Our reliance on foreign sourcing of essential generic medicine ingredients, particularly those manufactured in China, is a significant vulnerability that we must work together to address. Already, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen nations demonstrate a willingness to restrict exports of APIs and medicines they manufacture. For example, in February, India restricted exports of 26 APIs and generic medicines.

Phlow Corporation is a Virginia-based company that focuses on research, development, and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals using the latest manufacturing technology. Phlow Corporation's strategic partners are Virginia Commonwealth University, Civica Rx, and AMPAC Fine Chemicals. Phlow has provided our offices with an executive summary of their work, which is enclosed.

As you know, one of the critical objectives in the recently enacted Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act is for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to support the “development of necessary countermeasures and vaccines, prioritizing platform-based technologies with U.S.-based manufacturing capabilities.” We respectfully ask BARDA to consider the potential consortium Phlow has to offer the federal government with domestic production of essential generic medicines, chemical precursor materials, and APIs on an immediate-term and expedited basis.

Thank you for your attention to this request and the federal government's efforts related to combatting COVID-19. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information on the nature of this request.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Bobby C. Scott
Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress