NSCEB
National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology

www.biotech.senate.gov

Foundation for Enabling Biotechnology Innovation Act

Overview

The **Foundation for Enabling Biotechnology Innovation Act** (**S.2696**) would establish a Foundation for Enabling Biotechnology Innovation to accelerate the commercialization of biotechnology products in the United States, including by addressing regulatory burdens. The foundation's mission would be to:

- promote public-private partnerships;
- advance market access and international cooperation for biotechnology products; and
- support the missions and activities of relevant federal agencies.

Background

The National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) assessed in April 2025 that the United States' current approach to biotechnology regulation creates bottlenecks for innovation.

Challenges in scaling-up, along with slow regulatory approvals and delays in market access, ultimately hinder the commercialization of safe and effective biotechnology products. In particular, American biotechnology companies often have to navigate a thicket of slow, unpredictable, and complex regulations, while regulatory agencies lack the capacity to conduct the necessary activities to improve regulatory processes.

Government-affiliated foundations provide a flexible and efficient way to supplement federal activities. One example is the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA, which advances regulatory science and facilitates information exchange between the FDA and developers of medical products.

An independent, non-profit foundation would bring together experts from industry, academia, and government to share information about regulatory challenges and suggest ways of solving them. Such a foundation would significantly benefit American biotechnology companies and unlock major economic growth by enabling needed products to safely and efficiently enter the marketplace.

Available for House introduction

S. 2696

Sponsor:
Sen. Alex Padilla
(D-CA)

Original Co-Sponsor:
Sen. Todd Young
(R-IN)

Congress established the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB) to assess biotechnology's national security impact and recommend strategies to ensure American leadership.

Read the NSCEB's April 2025 report at https://www.biotech.senate.gov/final-report

Legislative Details

01 Activities

The foundation would accomplish its mission though activities such as convening expert stakeholders, public outreach and education, international engagement, grants for research, and training programs.

02 Board of Directors

Experienced professionals representing different sectors and regions of the United States would lead the foundation and select its CEO. Designees of federal agencies would serve as non-voting members.

03 Cost and Administration

The foundation would be administratively operated and funded through the National Science Foundation at a recommended $4 million per year. The foundation would supplement this appropriation through donations, with appropriate policies and restrictions to mitigate potential conflicts of interest and foreign influence.

04 Oversight

Similar to other federally affiliated non-profits, the foundation would have regular audits to assess its finances. The foundation would also publish annual reports of its activities, including to provide transparency with regard to fundraising.

Interested in leading or co-sponsoring this bill?

Please contact ideas@biotech.senate.gov