



Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense

Breakfast Meeting at the Army Navy Club (17th & I Street NW)

Featuring Co-Chair Governor Tom Ridge

November 17, 2104: 8:00am-10:00am

STUDY PANEL PURPOSE

This bipartisan Panel will evaluate the Nation's biodefense against potentially catastrophic both deliberate and natural biological or large-scale chemical incidents. It will identify changes to U.S. policy and law necessary to strengthen national resilience while optimizing resource investments.

CHAIRMEN

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman Governor Thomas J. Ridge

Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense

This bipartisan Panel will commence in December 2014 to evaluate the Nation's biodefense against deliberate and natural potentially catastrophic biological incidents or large-scale chemical attacks on the U.S. homeland.

We invite you to join us for a breakfast fundraiser and an opportunity to hear Governor Ridge's vision for the Study Panel, and how the panelists and their recommendations can impact policy-making in the 114th Congress and next Presidential Administration.

BIODEFENSE IN NEED OF THOROUGH EXAMINATION

The Obama, Bush, and Clinton Administrations enacted policies and programs to increase national resilience to biological and chemical threats. These efforts have involved many Federal Departments and agencies, often requiring enabling legislation and appropriations. Ten years following the report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission) and assessments made by the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism (the WMD Commission), the status and sufficiency of myriad, often disparate, biodefense activities have not been comprehensively studied.

PANEL TO RECOMMEND ACTIONS

The bipartisan Panel will be chaired by former Senator Joe Lieberman and Governor Tom Ridge. Four meetings will be convened in Washington, DC and several regional workshops to address biological and chemical threat awareness, prevention and protection, surveillance and detection, and response and recovery. Current and former Members of Congress, former Administration officials, state and local representatives, thought leaders, and experts will provide their perspectives on the national approach to biodefense, including strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.

The Panel will identify and recommend changes to U.S. policy and law to strengthen national biodefense while optimizing resource investments. The Panel will produce a report that will: (1) assess ongoing efforts; (2) articulate actions to improve the Nation's ability to prevent, deter, prepare for, detect, respond to, attribute, recover from, and mitigate potentially catastrophic biological incidents and large-scale chemical attacks; and (3) identify areas for longer-term consideration by current and future Congresses and Presidential Administrations. The Report of the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense will be issued in the Spring of 2015.

TO RSVP FOR THE BREAKFAST, PLEASE CONTACT:

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