

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: INCREASED FUNDING FOR EXPANDED RESEARCH FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY NATIONAL
CENTER FOR FOREIGN ANIMAL AND ZOOLOGIC DISEASE
DEFENSE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD Center) is a Department of Homeland Security national academic center of excellence involving a coalition of seventeen academic institutions. The FAZD Center cooperates with the Department of Energy's national laboratories and other federal institutions to address the priority needs of the United States (US) related to natural or intentional introduction of exotic animal diseases into this country. The FAZD Center is currently developing vaccines and diagnostics for foot and mouth disease, avian influenza and Rift Valley fever and is moving toward future validation and licensing of these products. It has developed the capacity to address a substantially broader agenda. The FAZD Center is developing analytic tools that inform decision makers assessing the consequences of alternative policy and regulatory decisions to protect, intervene, and recover from outbreaks of exotic disease, including a focus on methods to enhance continuity of business during and after outbreaks of these diseases. The FAZD Center provides education and outreach programs for 100 graduate students and hundreds of private sector operators and government officials on these diseases at both regional and national levels.

In the five years of its existence, the FAZD Center has brought together an integrated team of scientists and educators that uses an integrated approach to produce knowledge, analytic tools and specific products contributing to the solution of the most pressing problems related to the prevention, intervention, and recovery from the introduction of exotic animal diseases in the US. The ability to exploit the previous investment and current capacity of the FAZD Center team is threatened by a projection of serious erosion of funding in future years.

Funding for the FAZD Center has been reduced from an earlier \$6 million per year to \$4.2 million for FY2009. The indicative budget for the FAZD Center from FY2010 through FY2014 is \$4 million per year. This level of core funding for the FAZD Center is insufficient to maintain the integrity and momentum of the multi-institutional team that has been established.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges Congress to appropriate funds to restore support for the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD Center) to \$6 million per year for FY2010 – FY2014. USAHA requests the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS), Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate maintain the integrity and momentum of the FAZD Center to meet the pressing needs for protection against intentional or accidental introduction of exotic animal disease into the United States.