

**Hassan Statement at Finance Health Subcommittee Hearing on Building a Resilient Health  
Care Future with Biotechnology**

August 4, 2026

As Prepared for Delivery

I want to begin by thanking Chair Young for his work with me to hold today's hearing, and by thanking his staff for their work on this hearing as well. I also want to thank the witnesses for testifying before the committee and sharing their perspectives on health care and biotechnology.

One major emerging threat in this area is the surge of "superbugs" – which are bacteria that no longer respond to the treatments that we currently have.

Nearly 3 million Americans get sick each year with an infection that cannot be treated with the routine antibiotics that we have today.

Doctors who are treating patients with a resistant infection often have to try multiple antibiotics, and in some cases, no treatment options exist. And despite this growing crisis, research and development for new antibiotics is lagging, and only a handful of new antibiotics have been discovered in the past 50 years.

We need to examine this issue and find ways to invest in the development of new antibiotics in order to give doctors and patients the tools that they need.

This is a priority not just for the health of our people but for our national security, because as we face the challenge of combating superbugs and defending against other outbreaks, our foreign adversaries are growing increasingly sophisticated in their own biotechnology.

In the development of medications and treatments, China has quickly grown its capacity and is now one of the fastest drug development pipelines in the world.

If the United States does not keep up with the science and innovation coming from countries like China, we risk falling behind and becoming reliant on critical new medications that are only available abroad.

Furthermore, much of our supply chain for medications and medical devices made in the United States depends on ingredients and materials that come from abroad.

As we look ahead to the future of biotechnology in the United States, it is critical that we consider ways to diversify, secure, and on-shore our supply chains.

Finally, as we grow this important work at home, we also need to protect against the possibility that our adversaries will steal this research and leapfrog ahead of us.

We know that foreign entities from Russia and China are already targeting American biotechnology and medical research through targeted cyberattacks.

This compromises our national security and sensitive patient data, potentially allowing foreign governments to weaponize biological information.

We need to treat biotechnology as critical infrastructure in order to protect Americans' biological information from these outside threats. It is clear that we have a lot of work to do to strengthen our health care system and our national security by addressing these threats.

I will now turn it back over to the Chair to introduce our first witness.