

U.S. Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care
“Building a Resilient Health Care Future with Biotechnology”
Tuesday, August 4, 2026
Opening Statement

- **[GAVEL]** I call the Finance Subcommittee on Health Care to order.
- I would like to thank Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Wyden for their help in allowing us to move forward with this hearing today.
- I also want to acknowledge Senator Hassan for her partnership and leadership to make today’s hearing possible.
- Over the past decade, biotechnology has emerged as a pivotal technology domain of the 21st century.
- This technology has the potential to cure diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's, protect us from pandemics, and fuel our economy.
- In Indiana alone, the life-sciences industry employs around 70,000 Hoosiers, providing good-paying jobs in local communities while producing critical innovation and health treatments.
- Indiana also leads the United States in biomanufacturing, serving as the nation’s number one life sciences exporter in 2024.

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- However, China’s rise in biotechnology and the growing risks of antimicrobial resistance present new challenges to the United States.
- For more than a decade, Beijing has poured enormous resources into their biotech sector in a deliberate bid for global dominance.
- China’s rise puts the United States in a perilous position because leadership in this space provides America national and economic security.
- Moreover, advancements in biotech help keep America healthy by preventing, treating, and curing diseases.
- If we cede global biotechnology leadership to China, we risk a future where high-skilled biotech jobs migrate abroad, first-in-class therapies do not reach American patients first, and pharmaceutical supply chains are strategically weaponized.
- Just as we face the threat of China’s rise in biotechnology, antimicrobial resistance or “A-M-R” has become a growing public health crisis in recent years.

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- In the United States alone, more than 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections occur each year, resulting in over 35,000 deaths.
- As antimicrobial resistance has spread, market failures have resulted in a lack of needed research and development for new therapies.
- Many of the cutting-edge biopharmaceutical companies working to develop new antimicrobials have filed for bankruptcy and stopped producing these antibiotics completely.
- While these two threats to the United States vary in substance, the solution to address both is simple: innovation.
- American has a rich history of innovation. It is what we are best at, and, as policy makers, it is our responsibility to empower our innovators—whether through R&D incentives, partnering with allies to strengthen supply chains, or cutting red tapes.
- Without an industrious, innovative, and self-sustaining domestic biotechnology sector, the United States will remain at risk—both of relying on China for new, life-saving therapies and basic drugs, and of being unprepared for the next public health crisis.

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- It is my hope that this hearing will explore ways we can ensure the United States remains the global leader in biotechnology.
- I now recognize Ranking Member Hassan for 5 minutes to deliver her opening statement.