

**For Immediate Release**

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Media Contact:

Gwyn Donohue

PIJAC Director of Communications and Public Affairs

[gwyn@pijac.org](mailto:gwyn@pijac.org), 202-452-1525 x1080

**Statement from the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council on the One Health Act**

The following statement can be attributed to Mike Bober, President and CEO of PIJAC:

“The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) urges Congress to pass S. 861 and H.R. 2061, the Advancing Emergency Preparedness Through One Health Act (One Health Act). As the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced, the health of humans, animals and the environment are interconnected. In calling for federal departments and agencies to bring together human and animal health experts to establish a national One Health Framework and coordinate activities under a unified, collaborative One Health Program, the One Health Act will help ensure the U.S. is better equipped to detect, prevent and respond to future zoonotic disease outbreaks.

The responsible pet care community is committed to advancing opportunities for people to experience the scientifically proven emotional and physical benefits of the human-animal bond, and at the same time working to mitigate threats to human and animal health. PIJAC’s Zoonosis Committee develops and shares information and resources to alert and educate pet caretakers about zoonotic disease risks and prevention and stands ready to contribute our expertise to this essential initiative.”

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**About PIJAC:** Founded in 1971, the [Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council](http://pijac.org) (PIJAC) represents the experience and expertise of the responsible pet care community to legislative, regulatory, and governing bodies in order to promote animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, foster environmental stewardship, and ensure the availability of healthy pets. PIJAC members include retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, wholesale distributors, manufacturers’ representatives, pet hobbyists, and other trade organizations.