

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for calling today's hearing to review the incident of potential exposure of 84 CDC staff to anthrax on June 5th at the Bioterror Rapid Response and Advanced Technology (BRRAT) laboratory in Atlanta. I want to thank Dr. Thomas Frieden, Director of the CDC, for being forthcoming in his written testimony as to the problems that occurred and how the agency has already taken steps to address them.

I would also like to welcome a constituent of mine who will be testifying on the second panel, Sean Kaufman from Woodstock Georgia in Cherokee County, who was previously employed by the CDC and has unique knowledge on the inner workings of high-containment laboratories.

Mr. Chairman, the CDC main research facility in Atlanta is incredibly important for the region and the local economy. I hope that we can use today's hearing to learn more about how the agency can improve upon safety measures so that we can ensure

that incidents that put employees in harm's way can be avoided in the future.

I yield back.