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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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November 10, 2014

Dr. Anthony Fauci
Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Fauci:

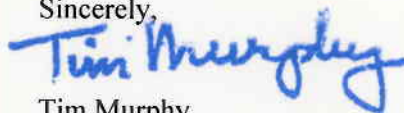
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Thursday, October 16, 2014, to testify at the hearing entitled "Examining the U.S. Public Health Response to the Ebola Outbreak."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Monday, November 24, 2014. Your responses should be mailed to Brittany Havens, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to brittany.havens@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess

1. We have learned a great deal about the difficulty of cleaning a room that has been utilized by an Ebola patient. What are the current standards for sterilizing a room in a healthcare or hospital facility?
 - a. When were these regulations last updated?
 - b. Will additional steps be taken to sterilize a room with an Ebola patient?
 - c. Will you be updating these guidelines to better reflect the realities of an Ebola case?
 - d. Some Veterans Affairs facilities and other hospitals are currently using pulsing xenon UV light to disinfect rooms—are any of you familiar with this technology?
 - i. If yes, do you believe this may have a higher success rate in disinfecting rooms and preventing further infection?
 - ii. Do you believe that this technology could be useful if deployed more widely in the United States?
 - iii. What about in combating the outbreak in Africa—would it be possible to utilize this technology to fight the outbreak?
 - iv. Will you please have someone on your staff review the position of the NIH on this technology and whether it will be helpful?
2. Is NIH concerned about potential infection among janitors, city employees, or waste disposal employees who come in contact with Ebola medical waste?
3. Mr. Duncan's family was forced to stay in their apartment because officials had no way to quarantine the area or dispose of medical waste—did NIH provide any information or guidance on the dangers of this? If not, why?
4. What have NIH efforts been in developing a diagnostic test that provides early detection, possibly before the development of symptoms? Financially, what role is BARDA playing in fostering this development of new technologies? How are you ensuring all diagnostic options are being considered?
 - a. Please describe all efforts in this area to date.
5. Please discuss the linkage between ongoing Ebola drug and vaccine development projects at NIH/NIAID and planned advanced research and development projects for Ebola at BARDA.

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján

1. The appearance of a handful of Ebola cases in the United States demonstrates the importance of robust investments in our nation's public health infrastructure. Unfortunately, the National Institutes of Health's budget has been largely flat for years. In addition, we've seen cuts to the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services' Hospital Preparedness program. Can each of you discuss if budget cuts have had any impact on our response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa or impacted the handling of the cases here in the United States?

The Honorable Paul Tonko

1. During the hearing, you indicated that the NIH had a grand total of two beds in a special bio containment unit to handle potential Ebola patients. How many of these specialized beds are there across the country and would this number be sufficient to handle an outbreak in the United States?
2. What is the NIAID doing to help accelerate the development of an Ebola vaccine? Are additional resources needed?
3. The first Ebola patients brought to the United States were treated with experimental drugs that we have subsequently run out of. Is the NIAID collaborating with the manufacturers of these treatments to produce additional quantities?

The Honorable Gene Green

1. Dr. Fauci, can you discuss the linkage between ongoing Ebola drug and vaccine development projects at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease and planned advanced research and development projects for Ebola at BARDA?