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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

November 10, 2014

Dr. Daniel Varga
Chief Clinical Officer and
Senior Executive Vice President
Texas Health Resources
612 E. Lamar Boulevard
Arlington, TX 76011

Dear Dr. Varga:

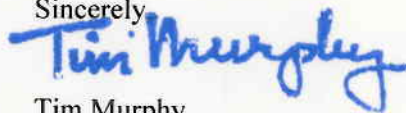
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Thursday, October 16, 2014, to testify at the hearing entitled "Examining the U.S. Public Health Response to the Ebola Outbreak."

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 Marsha Blackburn

1. Dr. Varga, who paid the medical bills for Thomas Duncan's care?
2. Who is covering the cost of care for your two nurses who were stricken with Ebola?

The Honorable Billy Long

1. The U.S. Government has invested billions of dollars in assisting hospitals with implementing Electronic Health Records (EHR). In this instance, do you believe your hospital's EHR failed to catch Mr. Duncan's illness on his first visit, and if so, why?
2. Will you please explain what your health system has done to address these clear shortcomings in the design of your Electronic Health Records?

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan

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. What type of guidance did you receive from the CDC prior to the first Ebola patient arriving at Texas Presbyterian Hospital? What form was this guidance in (handout, webinar, etc.)?
2. After the first diagnosis, do you feel your hospital had adequate guidance from the CDC on how to handle the infected patient?
3. Did CDC's guidance require personal protective equipment with full body coverage – meaning no exposed neck or wrist?
4. Reports have indicated that Nina Pham was not wearing protective gear when she first treated Thomas Duncan on September 29. Is this true? If so, why was she allowed into the treatment room without personal protective equipment?
5. Did you conduct training for medical personnel on how to comply with the CDC's isolation procedures?

6. Do you have enough personal protective equipment to accommodate all health care workers who come into contact with an Ebola patient, and would you have enough to deal with a larger outbreak?