

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

December 9, 2014

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Frieden:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, to testify at the hearing entitled "Update on 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.

Also attached are Member requests made during the hearing. The format of your responses to these requests should follow the same format as your responses to the additional questions for the record.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions and requests with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Tuesday, December 23, 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

Attachments

Attachment 1—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess

1. USAID is reporting a reduction in cases and a slowing in transmission. Simultaneously, the WHO has come out and explained that recent declines in cases from certain areas are a result of limited reporting activity and do not reflect a reduction in cases. Which is the accurate statement?
2. Can you speak to the flexibility of the American response in West Africa? It has been reported that Ebola Treatment Units are opening with much smaller capacities than originally planned. Who has decided these smaller numbers are appropriate?

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján

1. What's happening in West Africa is a tragedy. Recently, the World Health Organization announced that this unprecedented Ebola outbreak had claimed the lives of over 5,000 people and that more than 14,000 have been infected. Meanwhile, the public health infrastructure in these countries, which was already poor, is increasingly strained. The World Bank reports this outbreak could cost West Africa \$33 billion over the next two years.

Clearly, we have a moral responsibility to address this crisis. But defeating Ebola at its source is also vital to ensuring the safety of the American people. The Administration has correctly asked for a robust funding package to address this crisis. It is my hope and expectation that Congress will act on this request quickly.

However, the current Ebola crisis also demonstrates the importance of robust investments in our nation's public health infrastructure and in our research and development institutions. In my home state of New Mexico, our National Laboratories have developed genetic sequencing, low cost rapid pathogen assays, and computer models for how diseases spread.

Can you speak to the present and future role the National Labs play in our response to the Ebola crisis and similar outbreaks? Do you expect any of the funding in this request to go to National Laboratories – either directly or through partnerships?

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky

1. I want to make sure federal dollars are being used properly to prevent the spread of Ebola. Education and training front line hospital staff about how to protect themselves from Ebola exposure is vital for nurses and other workers at high risk of workplace exposure to Ebola. Protecting workers at risk of exposure will protect the public safety and strengthen the confidence of the public.

How is CDC involving the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration in its certification or review of hospitals being designated as one of the 50 Ebola treatment centers?

Attachment 2—Member Requests for the Record

During the hearing, Members asked you to provide additional information for the record, and you indicated that you would provide that information. For your convenience, descriptions of the requested information are provided below.

The Honorable Morgan Griffith

1. During the hearing you acknowledged that the Secretary of HHS is authorized to transfer funding from your department to other departments, and when she does so she is required to tell you that she has transferred those funds. Has Secretary Burwell transferred funds in 2014 from the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Disease?
 - a. Similarly, has the Secretary transferred money from the CDC's global health programs?
 - b. Has the Secretary transferred funds from CDC's Public Health Preparedness and Response Division?
 - c. If funds were transferred from any of the above mentioned divisions, were any of them transferred to help support Obamacare?
 - d. If funds were transferred from any of the above mentioned divisions, were any of them transferred for children and families to care for increasing number of unaccompanied children who arrived in the United States?
 - e. For all of the above questions, please provide the origin and destination of the funds, the date the transfers were made, and the amounts that were transferred.
2. How many sit-down, face-to-face meetings have you had with Ron Klain?
 - a. Please provide the dates that you met with Mr. Klain and the topic of discussion.