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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

December 9, 2014

Mr. Ken Isaacs
Vice President
Programs and Government Relations
Samaritan's Purse
P.O. Box 3000
Boone, NC 28607

Dear Mr. Isaacs:

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

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 Ben Ray Luján

1. We have a responsibility to ensure that our hospitals and our front-line healthcare professionals are equipped to safely handle a potential Ebola case. Your testimony indicates that we must not lose focus on addressing the crisis in West Africa or ensuring that our own infrastructure is appropriately prepared.

   Recently, I heard from a constituent whose daughter had worked in a state public health lab where she trained lab workers on how to properly respond if they found dangerous biohazard threats, such as Ebola.

   The daughter told my office it was difficult to find protective gear that fit certain body types, particularly smaller individuals. And I think we can agree Ill-fitting gear exacerbates the challenges associated with conducting activities that, even in properly fitting safety gear, can be difficult for those with limited experience wearing such gear.

   Further, after an Ebola scare at the Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center in Santa Fe, the hospital's nurses expressed concerns with the adequacy of their training and preparation.

   Before this incident, the hospital had not held a drill simulating a biological or chemical disaster or provided training to emergency staff on using their protective gear since April.

   Can you talk about what steps are taking place to ensure that our nation's hospitals and front-line healthcare workers are prepared and have the proper resources, included adequate protective gear? What do you think we have learned from the cases at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital? Do you believe additional steps are needed to ensure our hospitals and healthcare works are prepared?

   Further, can you elaborate further on what resources are yet needed, or where we should be focusing our efforts as the United States responds to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa?

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 Tim Murphy

1. During the hearing there was discussion about whether there is a sufficient level of granularity included in the Administration's supplemental funding request. Are you aware of an implementation plan for the administration's proposal? Please provide the committee with specific recommendations that you have regarding the Administration's budget request.