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ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH 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

February 25, 2015

Dr. Robin Robinson
Director
Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Robinson:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "Examining the U.S. Public Health Response to Seasonal Influenza."

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 Wednesday, March 11, 2015. 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 1—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn

1. Children have been hit particularly hard with the flu – over 50 tragic deaths so far this season. I understand that the market for Tamiflu in suspension form is relatively small in the U.S. The suspension form would be needed for children. Does the CDC currently have this liquid form of Tamiflu in its stockpile?
2. Is there an adequate amount to address a pandemic or even a severe flu season like this year is there were to be a shortage?
 - a. If no, what contingency plans are in place for children who need a suspension of this medication?
3. Have you had any discussions with generic manufacturers regarding a generic suspension formulation once Tamiflu loses its exclusivity in 2017?
4. As you know, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, or “PREP Act”, authorizes the HHS Secretary to issue a declaration that provides liability immunity to organizations that manufacture countermeasures to diseases such as influenza. In fact, there currently is a PREP Act declaration in effect for pandemic influenza vaccines, which has been extended multiple times. The current declaration is set to expire at the end of the year. In light of the ongoing public health challenges associated with pandemic influenza do you expect this PREP Act declaration to be extended before the end of the year?