

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  
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April 16, 2015

Dr. Caleb Banta-Green  
Senior Research Scientist  
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute  
University of Washington  
1107 N.E. 45th Street, Suite 120  
Seattle, WA 98105

Dear Dr. Banta-Green:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Thursday, March 26, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "Examining the Growing Problems of Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse: State and Local Perspectives."

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 Thursday, April 30, 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](mailto: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: The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

## **Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record**

### **The Honorable Tim Murphy**

1. During your testimony you cited a long-term, 42-month follow-up study conducted in NIDA's Clinical Trial Network led by Dr. Roger Weiss.
  - a. This study relied on telephone interviews to find out if patients were still using illicit opioids, or in fact, were opioid-free. There were no drug tests administered. In the "Limitations" section of the study, the authors stated that relying only on telephone interviews "may have inflated rates of good outcomes" (p.7). Do you agree with the authors?
  - b. Out of the original 653 participants in the study, 375 were enrolled to participate in this telephone interview follow-up study. Of those 375 that enrolled, 306 completed the 42-week telephone interview (less than half of the original sample). In the "Limitations" section of the study, the authors state that the results of the study "may not be generalizable." (p. 7) Do you agree with the authors?

### **The Honorable Larry Buchson**

1. What changes in Medicare and Medicaid policies are needed to expand access to medication-assisted treatment?
2. Should access to medical therapy including methadone, vivitrol, and buprenorphine all be available at federally funded substance abuse clinics?