

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

May 21, 2015

Dr. Richard G. Frank
Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Frank:

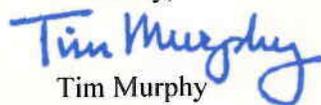
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Friday, May 1, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "What is the Federal Government Doing to Combat the Opioid Abuse Epidemic."

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 Thursday, June 4, 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: The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachments

Attachment 1—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess

1. While technology has the potential to solve many problems in healthcare, we are hearing similar complaints about PDMPs as we do with EHRs. Some doctors suggest that PDMPs interrupt clinical workflow. The Health IT Policy Committee sought public comment on whether EHR certification could enable and support streamlined access to PDMPs. Because PDMPs are a critical tool for patient care and clinical decision making, ONC suggested in their September 2013 report to Congress that they would explore a PDMP requirement in certification of EHRs. Can anyone speak to further discussion regarding including PDMPs as a requirement for certification of EHRs?
2. HHS already held a 50 state summit on opioid abuse and will hold another summit this summer. Can you provide to my staff a copy of a report from the first summit?
3. I have previously expressed my support for expanding access to Naloxone. Potential solutions that have been raised include Good Samaritan laws and allowing for over the counter access to this treatment. Based off your experience, do you foresee any unintended consequences associated with increasing access to Naloxone? What are the challenges?
 - a. There are also different naloxone products. Some require needles, while some are made into kits and can be used nasally. However, there are potential down sides to each. Intravenous administration allows for potential exposure to blood borne pathogens to the administrator. Intranasal administration may decrease uptake of naloxone during an overdose, when every second counts. There are also very sophisticated auto injectors. Can you talk about appropriate settings to incentivize each of these products?

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. Please provide the committee with any federal legislative proposals that the Secretary has that would help combat this opioid epidemic and turn ideas into implementation.

The Honorable David McKinley

1. What one thing would you recommend that we could do to try to start reversing this epidemic and this problem?