

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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Minority (202) 225-3641

May 21, 2015

Dr. Nora D. Volkow
Director
National Institute on Drug Abuse
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Volkow:

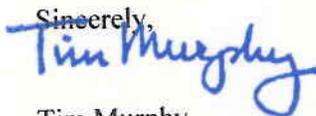
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Friday, May 1, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "What is the Federal Government Doing to Combat the Opioid Abuse Epidemic."

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. Some have raised questions about the efficacy of medication assisted treatment. Can you please comment on what the standard of care is for treating individuals with opioid dependence?

The Honorable Larry Bucshon

1. What are the implications of most opioid-dependent patients not getting treatment in programs that use medication?
2. I noticed the draft NIH National Pain Strategy did not mention technologies like SCS. What is NIH doing to promote FDA approved, non-pharmacological chronic pain treatments?
3. How do we increase patient access to these advanced non-opioid treatments?

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky

1. The current standard of care for treating pregnant women with opioid dependence, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, is medication assisted therapy, such as buprenorphine or methadone. Medically supervised tapered doses of opioids or abrupt discontinuation are contrary to the current standard of care and are only appropriate in a highly controlled research setting.

Can you tell us more about the standard of care for treating these patients?

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 David McKinley

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