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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

April 5, 2016

Dr. Gerald W. Parker, D.V.M, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President, Public Health Preparedness and Response
The Texas A&M University System
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Dr. Parker:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Friday, February 12, 2016, to testify at the hearing entitled "Outbreaks, Attacks, and Accidents: Combatting Biological Threats."

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 Tuesday, April 19, 2016. Your responses should be mailed to Giulia Giannangeli, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Giulia.Giannangeli@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: The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

Attachment--Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

1. As a physician, I understand that the development and validation of precise diagnostics for emerging outbreaks is crucial to combating biological threats such as Zika virus. We need to quickly develop diagnostics for these purposes and work to ensure that public health laboratories and hospital laboratories throughout the country are able to screen people for the disease and that patients have access to these tests. I'm concerned that the CDC is creating barriers for laboratories to quickly disseminate the test and by not enabling competing tests, there's no way to assess whether or not the CDC test is adequate. Please describe the process CDC engages in for sharing necessary information, test reagents, and reference materials to laboratories to develop tests for emerging infectious diseases. I've also heard that despite the lack of cooperation from the CDC, some physicians have already developed tests for Zika virus at Texas Children's Hospital and Stanford University. Have you considered collaborating with these academic medical centers on developing diagnostics?