

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH 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 11, 2017

Dr. Wilson Compton
Deputy Director
National Institute on Drug Abuse
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Compton:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, to testify at the hearing entitled "Fentanyl: The Next Wave of the Opioid Crisis."

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 25, 2017. Your responses should be mailed to Elena Brennan, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, and e-mailed in Word format to Elena.Brennan@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. Last fall, the Canadian press reported that a type of test strip to indicate the presence of fentanyl was being made widely available for a low price (\$5 Canadian). These kits or test strips were first announced in Vancouver, British Columbia, but later reports have identified them to pharmacies in Winnipeg, Manitoba (the middle of Canada). Yet there appears to be little if any public reaction, response, or similar kits detected or reported in the US.
 - a. Does NIDA have any familiarity with these test kits?
 - b. Is NIDA supporting research into these types of test kits?
2. What challenges does fentanyl present in a treatment setting and how does that compare to treating a patient that is addicted to opioids or heroin?
3. How could the NIDA-funded National Drug Early Warning System be used to enhance fentanyl surveillance?
4. How can real-time monitoring of the fentanyl threat be expanded?
5. Is NIDA supporting any research on understanding the differences between fentanyl analogues and their responsiveness to naloxone?
6. Is NIDA supporting any behavioral research on effective prevention messaging?
7. Is NIDA supporting any research on the development of a low-cost rapid field test to detect the presence of fentanyl?
8. The trends in medical prescriptions for fentanyl and related opioids are decreasing. Is NIDA supporting research to evaluate what programs have been effective in these areas?
9. What has research shown about what is driving the increasing rates of heroin use?
10. Does fentanyl adulteration of heroin and other drugs of abuse raise concerns about increases in the rates of addiction and overdoses?