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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

June 19, 2017

Dr. Timothy Persons
Chief Scientist
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Dr. Persons:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, to testify at the hearing entitled "U.S. Public Health Response to the Zika Virus: Continuing Challenges."

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 Wednesday, June 14, 2017. Your responses should be mailed to Ali Fulling, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Ali.Fulling@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 Tim Murphy

1. Why does the GAO think that it is important that the FDA consolidate information about tests, and require manufacturers to list the identity of the comparator assay?

2. You reported that some diagnostic test users also faced challenges complying with some equipment requirements to perform specific tests. (How) has this problem been addressed, how did the costs of obtaining new equipment affect localized budgets, and can you provide some examples?

The Honorable Kathy Castor

1. Please provide an update on vaccine development and clinical trials.

2. Please provide the latest information on the Zika vaccine licensing agreement between the U.S. Army and Sanofi and any relevant details.

3. With many members of Congress, states and public health advocates worried that the Zika vaccine being developed at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research with taxpayer dollars will be priced too high, how is the federal government working to ensure Sanofi, when/if a licensing agreement is made, will sell this taxpayer funded vaccine at an affordable price to federal and state governments and to consumers?

4. How has public health advice regarding Zika evolved over the past few years for young men and women? What do we know now that we did not before and what new information could be on the horizon?

5. When does each federal agency believe they will run out of money to respond properly to Zika, including vector control, surveillance, vaccine and diagnostics development/improvement and research?