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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
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June 19, 2017

Dr. Lyle R. Petersen
Director, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Petersen:

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
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. How many facilities in the United States can perform the various Zika diagnostic tests?

    a. What steps is the CDC taking to disseminate these tests, particularly the PRNT test, more widely?

    b. How many PRNT tests can the CDC process in one day?

    c. How do you plan to ramp up your capacity to process Zika diagnostic tests, in particular the PRNT test, in the coming months?

2. The PRNT test is considered the "gold standard" but is not scientifically proven. How can something be considered the "gold standard" when it has not been scientifically proven?

3. How many pregnant women with Zika infections have been accounted for in the United States?

    a. How many of these women completed their pregnancy?

    b. How many of these fetuses or infants had congenital birth defects?

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

1. What has CDC done to support the limited capacity of local public health departments through technical assistance and grants, and where has the agency found challenges in supporting local responses to the Zika epidemic? Furthermore, how does HHS plan to further support capacity building efforts in the coming months, particularly as we get into the months where we could see local transmission of Zika in the United States?

2. Last year as we began to discuss appropriating funds to support our efforts in addressing the Zika epidemic, there were discussions around the potential establishment of a new, flexible emergency preparedness fund for addressing future, emerging threats like Zika and Ebola. There are two existing revenue streams that the CDC receives that I would like to examine as potential infrastructure for developing such a fund: the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement and the Public Health Emergency Fund. Current appropriations levels aside, what flexibility has the CDC been able to wield in utilizing either of these funds, and what barriers would prevent the CDC from utilizing either these funds in the future?

The Honorable Frank Pallone

1. HHS recently reported that CDC has obligated $332.2 million of its fiscal year 2017 Zika funds. How much funding does CDC have remaining for 2017 Zika preparation and response? Does CDC have sufficient funds remaining to support these efforts for the remainder of fiscal year 2017?

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?