



December 3, 2013

Mr. David R. Pitts  
Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Congress of the United States House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Chairman Pitts,

Thank you for your letter of December 3, 2013 asking me to respond to a question from Representative Bilirakis. The document I have attached to this letter is my response to his question.

Thank you again for providing me with an opportunity to share my views with your subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Astrue", written over a faint, illegible typed name.

Michael J. Astrue  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
InVivo Therapeutics Corporation

cc: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

Attachment

One Kendall Square  
Building 1400 East, Floor 4  
Cambridge, MA 02139

## Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

### The Honorable Gus Bilirakis

- 1. The IG's office issued a report back in August mentioning that implementation of security standards was behind schedule. According to the report, CMS' Chief Information Officer was expected to make his Security Authorization on September 30, one day before the Exchanges were to go online. Is it responsible to make this type of decision one day before launch? Would you ever have done that at the Social Security Administration?**

In my opinion it was irresponsible for HHS to plan for a security certification by its CIO one day before launch. Responsible operational and security testing of the beta version of a complex new system typically takes several months and cannot be done in a principled fashion in one day.

We never planned for a one-day test of a major new system at the Social Security Administration. To the best of my recollection we typically allotted about three months for operational and security testing, but my practice was always to delay launch if I believed a new system had serious operational or security flaws.