

Questions for the record from Rep. Miller-Meeks, M.D.

Committee on Oversight & Reform
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis

**“MOVING BEYOND THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS: THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION’S
PROGRESS IN COMBATING THE PANDEMIC AND PLAN FOR THE NEXT PHASE”**

For Dr. Walensky, Director of Centers for Disease Control:

1. The 2018 Farm Bill authorized a three-part approach to animal disease prevention and management, which all work together to protect the United States from foreign diseases. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a Strategic Framework to work towards eradicating foreign animal disease through a One Health approach. HHS and the CDC are to be advising under these efforts to ensure coordination. Do you feel that the USDA is equipped to respond to the next outbreak, whatever it may be? How can the federal government better utilize private sector expertise and knowledge to respond to zoonotic diseases in the future without depending on foreign entities, such as China?

For Assistant Secretary Dawn O’Connell (ASPR):

1. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a focus on vaccines and mitigation strategies such as masks, social distancing, and lockdowns. However, we also know that therapies and treatments are equally as important. How is ASPR ensuring that oral antivirals are acquired and ensure that they are evaluating complications for all different types of patient groups?
2. The way we have and are still responding to COVID-19 has been a burden on our healthcare infrastructure. This needs to be constantly evaluated. Since we know this will not be the last pandemic or viral threat and since COVID-19 is clearly not going away, a dual threat such as a bad flu season could put our public health system in a deeper crisis. How is ASPR ensuring there are enough diagnostic and treatment options to deal with dual threats from COVID-19 and influenza?