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SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

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April 6, 2022

The Honorable Dawn O'Connell
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

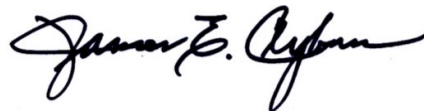
Dear Ms. O'Connell:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing on "Moving Beyond the Coronavirus Crisis: The Biden Administration's Progress in Combating the Pandemic and Plan for the Next Phase," held on Wednesday, March 30, 2022.

In order to ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written responses to the Select Subcommittee by April 20, 2022. Please respond to each question in full and include the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Select Subcommittee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Yusra Abdelmeguid at Yusra.Abdelmeguid2@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Select Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-4400.

Sincerely,



James E. Clyburn
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Steve Scalise, Ranking Member

Questions for Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Dawn O’Connell

March 30, 2022 Hearing: “Moving Beyond the Coronavirus Crisis: The Biden Administration’s Progress in Combating the Pandemic and Plan for the Next Phase”

Question from Rep. Nydia M Velázquez (NY-07)

1. How has the American Rescue Plan helped the nation prevent and protect against the coronavirus, and do you think we would be in the same position we are today without the resources it provided?
2. Please explain why it is important for the country to proactively plan and prepare for any future coronavirus variant or case increases, and how the Biden Administration’s National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan will help ensure that we are prepared moving forward.

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?