

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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March 5, 2024

CDR George Reed Grimes, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Division of Injury Compensation Programs
Health Resources & Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
[TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL]

Dear CDR Grimes:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing that was held on Thursday, February 15, 2024 titled "Assessing America's Vaccine Safety Systems, Part 1."

To ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written response to the Committee on or before Tuesday, March 19, 2024, including each question in full as well as the name of the member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Marie Policastro, Clerk for the Select Subcommittee, at marie.policastro@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Accountability staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Raul Ruiz, Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic

Questions for George Reed Grimes, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Division of Injury Compensation Programs
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

February 15, 2024: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic hearing titled
“Assessing America’s Vaccine Safety Systems, Part 1”

Questions from Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks

1. What is the rate of denial for compensation for claims for COVID-19 vaccines in CICIP?
2. What is the current backlog of claims in CICIP? (answer should be more than 10,000)
3. Why is there such a backlog of claims at CICIP for COVID-19 vaccines?
4. Can you highlight some of the differences between how COVID-19 claims are adjudicated, versus vaccines in VICP?
5. Is it harder to win in CICIP?
6. Is there a shorter deadline to file in CICIP?
7. Are the payouts smaller in CICIP?
8. Are the eligible injuries fewer in CICIP?
9. Can petitioners appeal decisions in CICIP?
10. According to Renee Gentry, the Director of George Washington University’s Vaccine Injury Litigation Clinic, the cost of [CICIP’s] failing will be like throwing kerosene on the antivax fire.”
 - Do you believe properly compensating those injured by vaccines, no matter how many or how few, is necessary in the preservation of trust in vaccines?
11. HHS and HRSA have paid billions in promoting and distributing Covid vaccines but has only paid out \$41,000 total for Covid vaccine injuries.
 - Do you believe this is sufficient in preserving the public’s trust in vaccines?

Questions from Rep. Debbie Lesko

1. Have you investigated the case I mentioned in my question and my staff followed up with you on about my former constituent Steve Wenger? If so, what have you found out?
2. What steps are you taking to remedy the situation with Steve Wenger?

Questions from Rep. Michael Cloud

1. Do you own individual stocks in any of the following companies?
 - a. Pfizer
 - b. Moderna
 - c. BioNTech
 - d. Novavax

2. Several of the COVID-19 vaccines have received full FDA approval and are no longer being used under emergency authorization. Is it standard practice for the countermeasures that have received such approval to continue receiving liability protection under the PREP Act and for injury claims regarding these countermeasures to be compensated via the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program?

3. What criteria would need to be satisfied to rescind the current PREP Act declaration and remove the covid vaccines from the CICP before its October 2024 expiration date?
 - a. How are these criteria decided upon and who is responsible for making such a decision?