

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

October 16, 2020

Ali Khan, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.  
Dean  
College of Public Health  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
984355 Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198

Dear Dr. Khan:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at the remote hearing entitled “Pathway to a Vaccine: Ensuring a Safe and Effective Vaccine People Will Trust.” We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Pursuant to Rule 3 of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, members are permitted to submit additional questions to the witnesses for their responses, which will be included in the hearing record. Attached are questions directed to you from me and another member of the Committee. In preparing your answers to these questions, please address your responses to the member who has submitted the questions using the Word document provided with this letter.

To facilitate the publication of the hearing record, please submit your responses to these questions by no later than the close of business on Friday, October 30, 2020. As previously noted, your responses to the questions in this letter, as well as the responses from the other witnesses appearing at the hearing, will all be included in the hearing record. Your responses should be transmitted by email in the Word document provided with this letter to Benjamin Tabor with the Committee staff ([benjamin.tabor@mail.house.gov](mailto:benjamin.tabor@mail.house.gov)). A paper copy of your responses is not required. Using the Word document provided for submitting your responses will also help maintain the proper format for incorporating your answers into the hearing record.

Dr. Ali Khan  
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please have your staff contact Mr. Tabor at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." in a cursive style.

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chairman

Attachment

cc: Hon. Greg Walden, Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Hon. Diana DeGette, Chair  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Hon. Brett Guthrie, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

**Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations**

**Hearing on  
“Pathway to a Vaccine: Ensuring a Safe and Effective Vaccine People Will Trust”**

**September 30, 2020**

**Ali Khan, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., Dean  
College of Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center**

**The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ):**

1. You state in your testimony that “we cannot wait for a vaccine to contain this outbreak” and that we must use “the public health tools we already have available.” How does a vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) fit into the larger public health strategy for fighting the pandemic if it will not be a silver bullet and instantly end the pandemic?
2. You stated in an National Public Radio interview in September that although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the States work to provide equitable access to existing vaccines all the time “this is going to be a complex process to vaccinate potentially all Americans. And it’s very appropriate to get the planning done and make sure that states are ready for receipt of vaccine.” Based on your past experience overseeing responses to H1N1 and other public health crises, why is it so critical to have plans in place to meet the needs of communities that are at higher risk of infection or may face additional hurdles to accessing care?

**The Honorable Diana DeGette (D-CO):**

1. If any member of the Administration authorizes or approves the use of a COVID-19 vaccine prior to or over the objection of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or against the recommendations of the Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, what impact do you believe this action would have on the American people’s confidence in the vaccine?
2. Based upon your prior roles with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and your expertise, please describe the role of personal protective equipment (PPE) in a wide-scale vaccination program. What kind of providers will be administering vaccines around the country, and what will their PPE needs be?
3. What supply challenges are facing states, territories, Tribes, and localities when it comes to preparing for a future COVID-19 vaccination program? Are they able to easily obtain the supplies needed to administer a vaccine on their own?

4. During the hearing, Mr. Duncan stated, “I thought Mr. Khan's comments recently about, we don't need a vaccine, we can do all these other things, and we're spending billions of dollars on development of a vaccine. And I don't disagree with him. I believe in herd immunity.” Is this an accurate reflection of your testimony and prior statements and if not, please respond and clarify your position on the need for a COVID-19 vaccine and herd immunity related to COVID-19