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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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March 29, 2007

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Donald R. Smithburg
Executive Vice President
Louisiana State University
8550 United Plaza Blvd., 4th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Mr. Smithburg:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at the hearing entitled "Post Katrina Health Care: Continuing Concerns and Immediate Needs in the New Orleans Region." We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

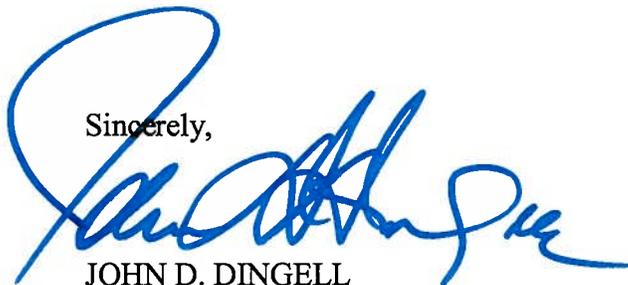
Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open to permit Members to submit additional questions to the witnesses. Attached are questions directed to you from certain Members of the Committee. In preparing your answers to these questions, please address your response to the Member who has submitted the question and include the text of the Member's question along with your response. In the event you have been asked questions from more than one Member of the Committee, please begin the responses to each Member on a new page.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, your responses to these questions should be received no later than the close of business Friday, April 13, 2007. Your written responses should be delivered to 2125 Rayburn House Office Building and faxed to (202) 225-5288 to the attention of Rachel Bleshman, Staff Assistant. An electronic version of your response should also be sent by e-mail to Rachel Bleshman at rachel.bleshman@mail.house.gov in a single Word or WordPerfect formatted document.

Donald R. Smithburg
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Rachel Bleshman at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
CHAIRMAN

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Ed Whitfield, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn

1. Regarding the mental health crisis in New Orleans, you recommend a variety of funding options, such as funding for outpatient facilities and long-term care beds, to alleviate the crisis. (Please refer to page 13 of your testimony.)

Who should pay for these additional beds and services? Federal and/or state government?

With the "brain drain" occurring in New Orleans, who will care for these patients once you have more beds?