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

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March 29, 2007

Robert Lynch, M.D.
Director
South Central Veterans Affairs Health Care
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20450

Dear Dr. Lynch:

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.

Robert Lynch, M.D.
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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 Ed Whitfield

1. Does the Veterans Administration continue to view the construction of a single campus with shared support services with LSU as the preferred option for a new VA hospital in New Orleans?
2. In your testimony you state that health care redesign seems to face some obstacles and delays in Louisiana. What, specifically, are these obstacles and delays? Are these obstacles and delays what prompted the VA to begin exploring other options and searching to identify alternative locations or sites for the VA hospital?
3. What does this exploration of new options indicate about your stated goal of restoring and supporting continued medical education in New Orleans with both Tulane and LSU?

The Honorable Charlie Melancon

1. Mr. Lynch, did any member of the Louisiana delegation or their staff contact you or your department in regards to changing your testimony about your future relationship with LSU in the context of healthcare redesign in Louisiana?

Contingent Questions:

If so, who was this member and what correspondence between the relevant parties took place, as far you know?

If so, what was your original testimony and how did it change after this influence was exerted?

We would like to formally request any and all correspondence between the aforementioned parties in regards to this subject.