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RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH 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 9, 2012

Margaret A. Hamburg, MD
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hamburg:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee is examining the facts surrounding the recent outbreak of fungal meningitis linked to contaminated spinal steroid injections. Federal officials have linked the steroid solution at issue with the New England Compounding Center in Framingham, Massachusetts.

On October 8, 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that eight people have died and over one hundred people have been sickened across nine states. CDC also confirmed that the number of confirmed cases may rise in the coming weeks given that thousands of patients may have been exposed.

The Committee has a long bipartisan history of conducting drug safety oversight and is very concerned about these recent developments. We intend to learn more from the FDA, CDC, and others who may provide insight into the details surrounding this outbreak and the prevention of future outbreaks. We understand that Committee staff contacted FDA staff on October 5, 2012, and requested a briefing to discuss FDA's ongoing response to this tragedy. We appreciate your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact John Stone of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927. This briefing should occur no later than October 12, 2012.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Chairman

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member

Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Joseph Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health

Michael C. Burgess
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Health