

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH 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

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is continuing its examination of the U.S. public health response to seasonal influenza. We appreciated FDA's participation and testimony at the hearing on February 3, 2015.

The committee seeks further information regarding the U.S. public health response to seasonal influenza. We believe understanding the lessons from this influenza season could improve the U.S. public health response in the future, particularly to a severe influenza season with a mismatched vaccine, and possibly save thousands of lives.

To assist the Committee's inquiry please respond to the following questions by March 23, 2015:

1. Please list the authorities that are available to HHS to respond to seasonal influenza drifted strains. What criteria would be used by HHS in using such authorities?
2. Would using an adjuvant in a seasonal flu vaccine to boost effectiveness against a drifted strain require emergency use authority? If yes, what authority and is that currently available authority? If not, what authority would be needed?
3. Does HHS believe that a legislative clarification of public health emergency authority would be helpful?

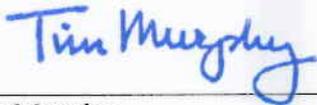
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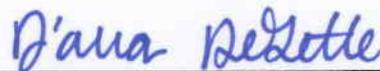
4. What databases does HHS have that could be used to track the effectiveness of influenza vaccines?
5. What steps is HHS taking to obtain effectiveness information on the influenza vaccines that HHS purchases?

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Alan Slobodin with the committee staff at (202) 225-2927 and Elizabeth Letter of the Democratic committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations



Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

Cc:

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member