

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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

February 23, 2016

Dr. Thomas Frieden
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Frieden,

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is examining U.S. public health preparedness and response to the Zika virus. We appreciate CDC's participation in a briefing of bipartisan Committee staff on February 8, 2016. For our forthcoming hearing on the Zika outbreak, to be held on March 2, 2016, you should be prepared to address the following questions in either your written or oral testimony:

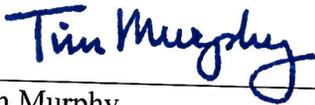
1. According to the February 8, 2016 emergency funding request fact sheet, the CDC share of the emergency funding would include "support [for] Zika virus readiness and response capacity in States and territories with mosquito populations that are known to transmit Zika virus, with a priority focus on areas with ongoing Zika transmission."
 - a. Have States and territories been consulted on what their immediate needs may be, or on how this funding may best be put to use?
2. How, if at all, has our understanding of the link between Zika virus infections, the birth defect microcephaly and Guillain-Barré Syndrome improved since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the ongoing outbreak is a public health emergency of international concern on February 1, 2016?
3. What does CDC propose be done to enhance the uniformity with which standards for diagnosing microcephaly are applied?
4. Would CDC have a role in the establishment and administration of the proposed new Urgent and Emerging Threat Fund, referenced in the February 8, 2016 emergency funding request

fact sheet? Notably, this new fund is not mentioned by name in the February 22, 2016 emergency supplemental appropriations request.

- a. If so, what lessons would CDC apply from its prior experience with Ebola funding?
 - b. What assurances can you provide that the Urgent and Emerging Threat Fund will not duplicate other existing funding streams to support the public health response?
5. How would CDC characterize its current level of cooperation with health departments of Latin American and Caribbean nations presently impacted by the Zika outbreak? What, if anything, could be done to improve it?
6. Is there evidence showing the risk for health care workers to acquire infection from treating a patient with Zika virus?

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Sam Spector with the majority committee staff at (202) 225-2927 or Una Lee with the minority committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations



Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations