

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

Anthony Fauci, M.D.
Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Fauci,

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 NIH'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. 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?
2. Are there additional long-term neurological or other conditions related to Zika infection that may arise in infected children, and what is NIH doing to address this possibility?
3. Zika is an arbovirus not unlike diseases for which a vaccine is already available or being developed, such as dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever. The February 22, 2016 emergency supplemental appropriations request includes \$130 million to build upon existing resources to develop a vaccine for Zika and chikungunya. Will existing knowledge as well as parallel vaccine research efforts targeted at these diseases expedite development of a vaccine for Zika?
4. Although none are yet commercially available, at present there are several diagnostic tests in use to identify Zika infections, each with varying degrees of sensitivity, and a range of

strengths and weaknesses. How do NIH's diagnostic development efforts intend to improve upon existing technologies?

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