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HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
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

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

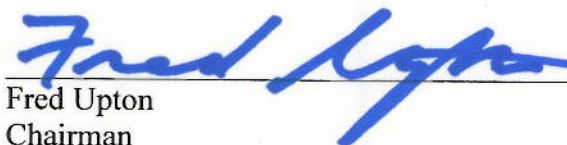
Dear Director Frieden:


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. Please contact John Stone of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927 to schedule a briefing to discuss CDC's ongoing efforts in response to this tragedy. This briefing should occur no later than October 12, 2012.

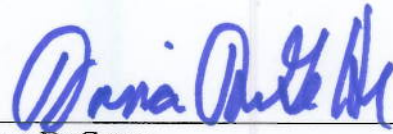
Sincerely,


Fred Upton
Chairman

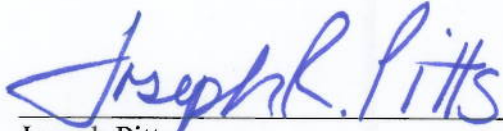

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member



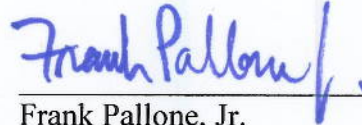
Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



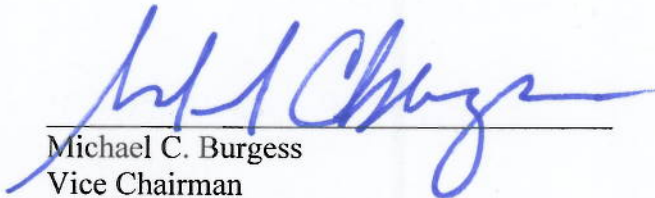
Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



Joseph Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health



Michael C. Burgess
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Health