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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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March 29, 2007

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Gary Wiltz, M.D.
Chairperson
Region 3 Consortium
1115 Weber Street
Franklin, LA 70538

Dear Dr. Wiltz:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at the hearing entitled "Post Katrina Health Care: Continuing Concerns and Immediate Needs in the New Orleans Region." We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

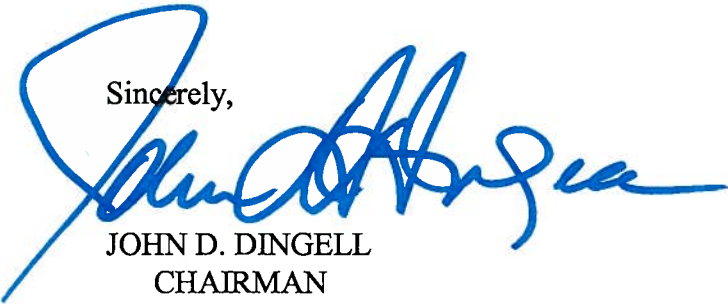
Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open to permit Members to submit additional questions to the witnesses. Attached are questions directed to you from certain Members of the Committee. In preparing your answers to these questions, please address your response to the Member who has submitted the question and include the text of the Member's question along with your response. In the event you have been asked questions from more than one Member of the Committee, please begin the responses to each Member on a new page.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, your responses to these questions should be received no later than the close of business Friday, April 13, 2007. Your written responses should be delivered to 2125 Rayburn House Office Building and faxed to (202) 225-5288 to the attention of Rachel Bleshman, Staff Assistant. An electronic version of your response should also be sent by e-mail to Rachel Bleshman at rachel.bleshman@mail.house.gov in a single Word or WordPerfect formatted document.

Gary Wiltz, M.D.
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Rachel Bleshman at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
CHAIRMAN

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Ed Whitfield, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Ed Whitfield

1. Ms. Diane Rowland stated that pre-Katrina New Orleans had only two federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). Can FQHCs play a larger role in New Orleans? If so, what impediments do you see to the expansion of FQHCs at the federal, state, and local level?

The Honorable Gene Green

1. I am a strong proponent of health centers and understand the tremendous job they do to serve the uninsured. The cities of Houston and New Orleans both have high levels of uninsured with too few FQHCs to meet the need. So, I appreciate the challenges you face.

I understand that you have worked with Governor Blanco to craft a proposal for health center construction. Can you provide the committee with additional details on that proposal and explain how it will be utilized to leverage additional health care financing?

Additionally, with health centers saving three Medicaid dollars for every one federal dollar spent on them, there is no question that FQHCs are a good use of scarce health care dollars. As we look at rebuilding health care in New Orleans, can you elaborate on what role FQHCs will – or should – play in the reconstruction of the health care system?