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*Congress of the United States*

*House of Representatives*

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June 2, 2020

Dear Republican Colleague:

As the country continues to reopen while simultaneously preparing for a potential uptick in COVID-19 infections – or “second wave” – in the fall and winter months, Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans are working to ensure states have the tools and resources they will need to protect public health. For several months, Energy and Commerce Committee staff have been researching every aspect of this public health crisis. They’ve interviewed public health experts in order to examine and document what resources our nation has available, the challenges we could face in the months ahead, and provide recommendations to improve our preparedness and response going forward.

President Trump and federal agencies are working around the clock to respond to the current public health emergency while preparing for the future, and we were pleased by the strategic plan the administration submitted to Congress on May 24, 2020. Our approach is complementary to those efforts.

Today, we are releasing the first pillar of the committee’s Second Wave Project. Part One focuses on two of the most important parts of mitigating future outbreaks and reopening our economy: testing and surveillance. This report takes a deep dive into our current testing capacity and provides recommendations on what is needed in the coming months to prepare for a second wave, as well as potential future events. This report also examines the issue of surveillance, something the public health community unanimously shares should be a top priority in the months ahead.

Numerous teleconferences and interviews went into the research of this project. E&C members have been receiving information on a wide range of issues from key experts such as Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Stephen Hahn, M.D., to name a few. Staff have also conducted interviews and briefings in addition to the research necessary for this project. This investigation and report is an important and solid foundation to make sure America is ready for what may come our way this fall and winter.

Congress and the administration must work together to address this crisis. Over the coming months, the Energy and Commerce Committee will release a series of recommendations

that, if implemented, could save time, resources, and most importantly, lives. We encourage every member of our Conference to become familiar with the recommendations in this report and to share them with your constituents. Republicans have a plan to work alongside the president to defeat this Invisible Enemy and get our country back on a path to prosperity. We're confident these efforts, combined with determination and partnership from the private sector, will get our country through this challenging time.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Walden", written over a horizontal line.

Greg Walden  
Republican Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brett Guthrie", written over a horizontal line.

Brett Guthrie  
Republican Leader  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations