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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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

January 19, 2022

Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S, Ph.D.
Acting Director
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dr. Tabak:

We have learned that the public health agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in addition to responding the COVID-19 pandemic, are also supporting research activities related to SARS CoV-2 and other coronaviruses.¹ While research on coronaviruses is extremely important, there is a compelling public interest in learning more details about this research. The justification and basis for conducting this research, what measures, if any, are being taken to ensure the safe conduct of this research, and how this research and its funding are being tracked is important for this committee to know.

Accordingly, please provide a list of all proposed,² approved, or ongoing research work that your agency is funding in the area of coronaviruses (especially SARS CoV-2) or viruses related to SARS, MERS, or SARS CoV-2 and respond to the following requests by February 16, 2022:

1. Please provide a description of the nature of any research and the identity of the entity conducting the research. If the research is extramural, please provide the name of the entity and the kind of award (grant, contract, etc.).

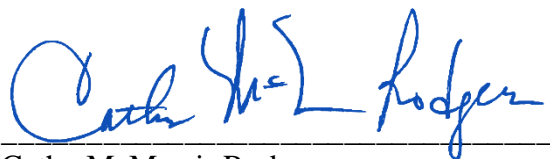
¹ See, e.g., <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/news-events/biden-administration-invest-3-billion-american-rescue-plan-part-covid-19-antiviral>; <https://commonfund.nih.gov/covid19>; <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/coronavirus-covid-19-drugs/coronavirus-treatment-acceleration-program-ctap>; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-agenda-covid19.html>

² This would include research proposals submitted to Institutional Biosafety Committees, or any other review committees.

2. What are the goals and objectives of the research? How will these goals and objectives be measured or evaluated?
3. Does the research involve virus manipulation, passaging of a virus, genetically modified animals, or making any mutations to a virus?
4. For laboratory research, what biosafety level laboratory is being used, or proposed for use, in the research?
5. What measures are being proposed or taken to ensure the safe conduct of the research? If there is an incident, how will the reporting and resolution of the incident be handled?
6. Please provide the date the research was proposed.
7. Please provide the date the research was approved, if applicable.
8. Please provide the date the research started, if applicable.
9. Please provide the date of first progress report, if applicable.
10. Please identify the source of funding and the authority for funding of this research.
11. How is the funding of this research being tracked?

If you have any questions, please contact Alan Slobodin of the Minority Committee staff. Thank you for your attention to this request.

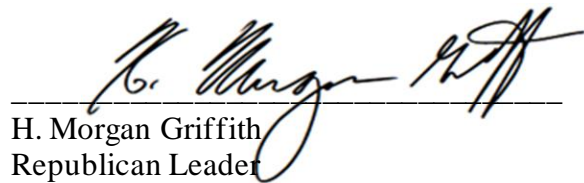
Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Republican Leader
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Brett Guthrie
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Health



H. Morgan Griffith
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Letter to Dr. Lawrence A. Tabak

Page 3

CC: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman

The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Chair, Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Diana DeGette, Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations