

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 11

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that oversight hearings should be held immediately to determine the causes and outcomes surrounding this influenza season's vaccine shortage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Mr. CONDIT submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that oversight hearings should be held immediately to determine the causes and outcomes surrounding this influenza season's vaccine shortage.

Whereas the United States has been faced with a shortage of influenza vaccine from manufacturers during this influenza season;

Whereas influenza vaccine is the best preventative measure against influenza;

Whereas the most at risk populations were not immunized at the optimal time (early October), as recommended by health officials;

Whereas influenza seasons are unpredictable and can be devastating to the health and well-being of all populations, regardless of age;

Whereas all influenza vaccines are privately manufactured;

Whereas opportunity exists for distributors of influenza vaccine to reap large profits in times of shortage by servicing the highest bidder before their contractual agreements or those most in need;

Whereas the State of California contracted with General Injectables and Vaccines on February 24, 2000, for 700,000 doses of influenza vaccine at \$17.99 per vial with expectations of receiving its entire shipment by September 15, 2000, but did not receive the balance until the end of November 2000;

Whereas the State of Maine contracted with General Injectables and Vaccines in late June 2000 for 123,000 doses of influenza vaccine at \$31.00 and \$39.00 per vial and received its entire order by early September 2000; and

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has implored distributors of influenza vaccine to send their product to those most in need per CDC guidelines: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that oversight hearings should be convened
3 immediately to determine—

4 (1) the course of action followed by distributors
5 of influenza vaccine during this influenza season;

1 (2) whether or not such distributors put profit
2 ahead of the health and well-being of the American
3 people; and

4 (3) whether it is necessary to take measures to
5 ensure the safe, adequate, and timely supply of in-
6 fluenza vaccines in the future.

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