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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

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December 16, 2004

The Honorable Porter Goss  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Goss:

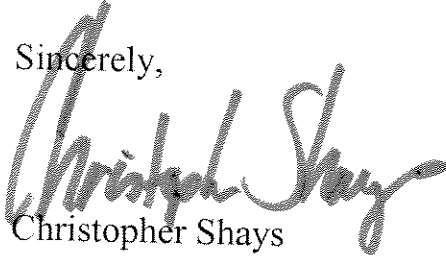
In a December 10, 2004 letter to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz referenced "a classified November 2004 Intelligence Community assessment of the anthrax threat" as one consideration supporting a request for an emergency authorization to resume use of the anthrax vaccine. This is to request access to that assessment.

As you may know, the Department of Defense (DOD) Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program has been suspended pursuant to the order of a federal district court due to procedural infirmities in classification of the countermeasure by the Food and Drug Administration as effective against inhalational exposure. The emergency use authorization requested by DOD would overcome that judicial bar and would be the first use of such authority under the Project BioShield Act of 2004. As such, the basis for any determination of emergency use of a biological warfare countermeasure should be as clear as possible to those who take the vaccine and to their elected representatives.

Therefore, the Subcommittee requests the opportunity to review the assessment relied upon by DOD and to be briefed by those most familiar with the product. Please contact me or Lawrence Halloran, Subcommittee Staff Director and Counsel, to arrange a mutually suitable time and place to review the material.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Christopher Shays". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Shays".

Christopher Shays  
Chairman

cc: Hon. Tom Davis  
Hon. Henry Waxman  
Hon. Michael Turner  
Hon. Dennis Kucinich