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DEPUTY WHIP

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3505

July 15, 2020

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The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

Thank you for your service to the United States and for your efforts in fighting COVID-19. I am reaching out on behalf of my constituents in Northwest and West Central Ohio who are facing delays in receiving COVID-19 test results.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced that the United States surpassed over 40 million tests performed. I want to applaud you and the Administration for this milestone and for providing every American the ability to be tested for COVID-19. However, even with testing capabilities breaking records daily, we are now facing a delay with test results. This hold up is consequential as those waiting for their results may be unintentionally spreading the virus to others, and they may not be seeking the care they need if they have the virus.

Congress passed the CARES Act to provide significant funding for rapid testing, reimbursement for health care providers, and for the development of a vaccine or treatment. I am encouraged with our nation's increased testing capabilities but, until a vaccine is developed, we must contain the virus by limiting the spread. One way to help mitigate the spread is to improve the speed in which test results are made available.

I, therefore, am requesting information on why there is a delay in distributing test results and how HHS is working to resolve the issue. Please reach out to my staff, Paul Hartman, at 202-225-6405 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress