

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretaries Becerra and Blinken:

We appreciate your continuous effort to combat the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. We are committed to the Biden Administration's ambitious goal to celebrate our independence from COVID-19 by Independence Day, and we are encouraged by the news last week that over 200 million vaccine doses were administered in the first 100 days of the Biden Presidency.<sup>1</sup>

The Administration's rapid success in protecting Americans now presents the opportunity to aid others facing deadly COVID-19 surges around the world. We commend the Administration's decision on Monday, April 26, 2021, to deploy up to 60 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses to the international community.<sup>2</sup> Countries such as India, Argentina, and Brazil are facing massive surges in infections. In India alone, more than one million new cases of COVID-19 were detected in just three days.<sup>3</sup> The Administration's decision also makes sense, because the AstraZeneca vaccine cannot currently be used in America, as the company has not yet applied for Emergency Use Authorization from the Food and Drug Administration.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The White House, *Remarks by President Biden on the COVID-19 Response and the State of Vaccinations* (Apr. 21, 2021) (online at [www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/04/21/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-covid-19-response-and-the-state-of-vaccinations-2/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/04/21/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-covid-19-response-and-the-state-of-vaccinations-2/)).

<sup>2</sup> *U.S. To Share 60 Million Doses of AstraZeneca COVID Vaccine with Other Countries*, NBC News (Apr. 26, 2021) (online at [www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/u-s-share-60-million-astrazeneca-covid-vaccine-doses-other-n1265398](http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/u-s-share-60-million-astrazeneca-covid-vaccine-doses-other-n1265398)).

<sup>3</sup> *India Hits 1 Million COVID Cases in Three Days*, CBS News (Apr. 25, 2021) (online at [www.cbsnews.com/live/video/20210425124500-india-hits-nearly-one-million-covid-cases-in-three-days/](http://www.cbsnews.com/live/video/20210425124500-india-hits-nearly-one-million-covid-cases-in-three-days/)).

<sup>4</sup> *The World is Watching the FDA's AstraZeneca Decision*, Axios (Apr. 8, 2021) (online at [www.axios.com/fda-astrazeneca-coronavirus-vaccines-world-2d4dcc7b-a856-4008-bcb9-63910f7cd786.html](http://www.axios.com/fda-astrazeneca-coronavirus-vaccines-world-2d4dcc7b-a856-4008-bcb9-63910f7cd786.html)).

However, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki stated on Monday that these shipments will not happen right away, and that no doses will be shared until the Food and Drug Administration has concluded its review, which may take several more weeks.<sup>5</sup>

Time is of the essence. Without assistance from the United States, new vaccine-resistant mutations could arise across the globe, threatening international public health and the United States' national security and economic prosperity.

To assist in our oversight of this matter, we request a staff briefing to address the following topics:

1. The process for selecting countries eligible to receive vaccine doses and the process to determine how many doses they will receive, including the agencies and individuals involved in those processes and their roles;
2. The timeline for shipping doses to other countries;
3. Whether the United States expects to have enough supply of vaccines from other manufacturers to inoculate the American public without the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine; and
4. Whether any legal or contractual barriers present obstacles to shipping doses abroad.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working together to ensure America remains a global leader in protecting international public health and safety by distributing excess supplies to those in dire need.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. The House of Representatives established the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis “to conduct a full and complete investigation” of “issues related to the coronavirus crisis,” including the “preparedness for and response to the coronavirus crisis, including the development of vaccines and treatments,” “executive branch policies, deliberations, decisions, activities, and internal and external communications related to the coronavirus crisis,” and “any other issues related to the coronavirus crisis.”<sup>6</sup>

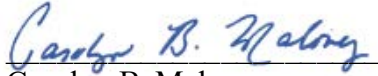
If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

---

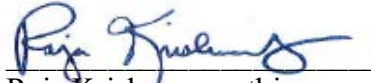
<sup>5</sup> *U.S. To Share 60 Million Doses of AstraZeneca COVID Vaccine with Other Countries*, NBC News (Apr. 26, 2021) (online at [www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/u-s-share-60-million-astrazeneca-covid-vaccine-doses-other-n1265398](http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/u-s-share-60-million-astrazeneca-covid-vaccine-doses-other-n1265398)).

<sup>6</sup> H.Res. 8, sec. 4(f), 117th Cong. (2021); H.Res. 935, 116th Cong. (2020).

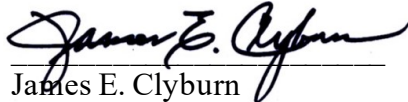
Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Economic and  
Consumer Policy



James E. Clyburn  
Chairman  
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis



Stephen F. Lynch  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on National Security

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Michael Cloud, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Steve Scalise, Ranking Member  
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis

The Honorable Glenn Grothman, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security