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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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September 11, 2009

Mr. Gene Dodaro  
Acting Comptroller General  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20548

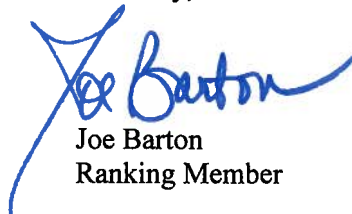
Dear Mr. Dodaro:

In February 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which included approximately \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the majority of which is to fund extramural research. In a hearing before the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, in November 2008, several witnesses talked of the value of investing in biomedical research, and in a release issued after passage of the ARRA, NIH officials stated that grant awards would target research of the highest quality that will impact both economic growth and human health.

We would like the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine the use of the recovery funds by NIH. Specifically, we would like information on the process and criteria used for awarding grants that were made available through ARRA monies, and the extent to which these may have varied from the process and criteria typically used by NIH to award grants. Additionally, we are interested in obtaining information on grantee estimates of the number of jobs created or maintained through grant awards funded with ARRA monies.

We are interested in obtaining information before the final awards under this program are completed. Therefore, we request an interim briefing focused on how the 2009 grants were awarded, and a final report that includes the reported job estimates after all the ARRA grant awards have been made. Please contact Ms. Aarti Shah at (202) 225-3641 if you have any questions or concerns about this request.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman