

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC ASSETS

“The Zika Virus: Coordination of a Multi-Agency Response”

2154 Rayburn House Office Building

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Good Morning. My name is Dr. Bill Moreau. I am the Managing Director of Sports Medicine for the United States Olympic Committee.

I want to thank Chairman Mica, Ranking Member Duckworth and other members of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets for holding this hearing on Zika and US Government preparedness.

Background on the USOC - The United States Olympic Committee was founded in 1894 and is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It serves as both the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States. As such, the USOC is responsible for the training, entering and funding of U.S. teams for the Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic, Pan American and Parapan American Games, while serving as a steward of the Olympic Movement throughout the country.

In 1978, the passage of The Amateur Sports Act (now The Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act – revised in 1998) as federal law appointed the USOC as the coordinating body for all Olympic-related athletic activity in the United States. It specifically named the USOC coordinating body for athletic activity in the United States directly relating to international competition, including the sports on the programs of the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American and Parapan American Games. The USOC was also tasked with promoting and supporting physical fitness and public participation in athletic activities by encouraging developmental programs in its member organizations.

The USOC has two primary responsibilities in its oversight of Olympic and Paralympic sport in the United States. The first is to generate resources in support of its mission, which is to help American athletes achieve sustained competitive excellence. The second is to ensure organizational resources are wisely and effectively used to that end.

In addition to its international Games responsibilities and its work to advance the Olympic Movement, the USOC aids America’s Olympic and Paralympic athletes through the National Governing Bodies (NGBs), providing financial support and jointly working to develop customized, creative and impactful athlete-support and coaching education programs.

The USOC also supports U.S. Olympic and Paralympic athletes on and off the field of play through programming such as direct athlete funding, health insurance, tuition grants, media and marketing opportunities, career services and performance-based monetary rewards. In addition, the Olympic Training Center facilities provide athletes with performance services, including sports medicine; strength and conditioning; psychology, physiology and nutrition assistance; and performance technology.

Additionally, the USOC oversees the process by which U.S. cities bid to host the Olympic/Paralympic Games, the Youth Olympic Games or the Pan/Parapan American Games, while also playing a supporting

role in the bid processes for hosting a myriad of other international competitions. Further, the USOC approves the U.S. trials sites and procedures for the Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic, Pan American and Parapan American Games team selections

Addressing the Zika Outbreak with the Support of the US Government – The US Olympic Committee is a sports organization. Our mission is to support US Olympic and Paralympic athletes in achieving sustained competitive excellence while demonstrating the values of the Olympic Movement, thereby inspiring all Americans. Every two years we bring Team USA to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In between Games, we work very closely with 47 NGBs to build Team USA.

The safety of our athletes and staff is our number one priority. As the Managing Director of Sport Medicine for the US Olympic Committee, my mission is to build and coordinate a complex network of medical doctors, health care services, and academic experts across numerous medical fields. We have tremendous medical expertise supporting Team USA at our training centers and across the country. Together, we help elite athletes mitigate health risks they may encounter during the course of their training or competition. We also help them maximize their best physical performance by preventing injuries and illness, and supporting healing and recovery should they face a health related challenge.

The USOC sports medicine staff operates three clinics at the U.S. Olympic Training Centers in Chula Vista, Calif., Colorado Springs, Colo., and Lake Placid, N.Y. The staff takes multi-disciplinary approaches to prevention, evaluation, management, treatment, and rehabilitation of athlete injuries and illnesses to ensure Team USA athletes return to the playing field as soon as possible following an injury or illness.

Roughly 95 percent of the USOC athlete presentations are musculoskeletal in their origin. In addition to the sports medicine expertise we are able to provide directly to our athletes, we have also developed a robust relationship with several hospitals, hundreds of physicians and university based medical schools which are integrated into the medical services the USOC provides to Team USA. As it relates to the Zika outbreak specifically, we have strong networks with experts in infectious disease as you will hear in more detail through the course of my testimony.

The US Olympic Committee is not an organization with a focus or specialty in infectious disease. We rely on the tremendous expertise of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public and private infectious disease experts to understand and address the threats that viruses such as Zika pose for our athletes. We have been in regular contact with the CDC and other experts for months. They continue to provide us sound recommendations based on the information available to date. We have compiled these recommendations, developed a protocol to mitigate risks and provided this information to all potential Team USA athletes and support staff likely to travel to Rio before and during the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. I have submitted the most recent USOC communications to the athletes with this testimony.

Current USOC Protocol to Mitigate Zika and Other Viral Threats

Working with the CDC and other experts, the USOC has developed a protocol to mitigate the risks posed by Zika. Let me walk you through it now. We are:

- Continuously communicating the latest information to our athletes, staff and other stakeholders.

- Steadily communicating with partners such as the IOC, WHO, CDC, Department of Defense (DOD) and infectious disease specialists.
- Monitoring evidence-based sources of information regarding viral pathogens.
- Using mosquito bite precautions provided by the CDC.
- Using insect repellent as recommended by DOD.
- Staying aware of any treatments/antivirals/immunizations as they are developed. Currently there are none.
- Training our medical team on early recognition information about Zika.
- Stocking formulary with best supportive medicinal interventions.
- Providing adequate DEET containing insect repellent for personnel issued prior to departure with additional supplies on hand in Rio. Telling athletes to apply their sunscreen before the insect repellent.
- Considering pre-treatment with Permethrin kits for all USOC "personal" clothing.
- Considering providing bed nets for all personnel.
- Identifying Brazilian locations for rapid diagnostic tests for viral pathogens.

One point that is often lost in the discussion about Zika and the 2016 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games is that it will be winter in Brazil in August. This is typically the driest time of the year in Brazil and a less active time for mosquitos. We hope this will be the case this year and that the risk of infection will be lower for our athletes and all fans. We will continue to update and implement our risk mitigation protocol in any event.

Knowledge about the Zika virus is growing on almost a daily basis. We are following all of the developments. We are incredibly pleased with the support and collaboration we have received from the CDC, the DOD and others, and are indeed, indebted to them for sharing this information so that we provide the very best, most accurate information to our athletes and those staff who most directly serve and support our athletes. We will continue to work closely with the CDC, the DOD and other infectious disease experts throughout the Rio Games and we will continue to follow the CDC recommendations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address this important issue.

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USOC BIOGRAPHY

William J. MOREAU **Managing Director of Sports Medicine**

Dr. William J. Moreau, DC, DACBSP, CSCS, is a chiropractic physician and evidence-based sports medicine clinician who began work at the United States Olympic Committee as the director of clinics in 2009 after more than 25 years of private practice. He was promoted to his current role as USOC managing director of sports medicine in May 2012. In his current role, he oversees the organization's sports medicine activities – including providing medical care to U.S. athletes at the Olympic Games and flagship U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado – and the USOC's National Medical Network.



The USOC Sports Medicine Clinics located in Lake Placid New York, Colorado Springs Colorado and Chula Vista California provide over 25,000 patient encounters with Olympic and Paralympic athletes. These clinics leverage technology to provide for the safe, efficient and effective healthcare needs of Team USA's athletes.

He served as Team USA's medical director at the London 2012 Olympic Games and the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games, in which he was responsible for administering medical care to more than 800 athletes as provided by more than 200 medical providers. Dr. Moreau is the Chief Medical Officer for Team USA for the 2016 Summer Rio Games and the 2018 Winter Games in South Korea. As Chief Medical Officer he will prepare the medical facilities and medical staff to serve Team USA athletes and support staff.

Dr. Moreau has more than 30 years of clinical expertise in both general practice and sports medicine. His patient treatment populations in sports include Olympic, Paralympic, professional, collegiate, high school and recreational athletes. He is well-published with a focus on athletic injuries and an emphasis on the study of sport related concussion. He is dedicated to advancing patient-centered, evidence-based, musculoskeletal care pathways delivered through integrated multidisciplinary healthcare teams.

Dr. Moreau has delivered over 600 invited lectures and he has been featured in Bloomberg Businessweek, USA Today, TIME, ESPN, NPR, NBC, GE Healthcare News and Kaiser Health News. He was also a speaker for the USA Department of Health and Human Services Consumer Health IT Summit, Cleveland Clinic and the Allegheny Healthcare Summit.

He serves on the editorial review board of the Journal of Chiropractic Medicine and has served for many years with the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians.