

Mr. Chairman,

I have learned of a serious charge made by author Hillary Johnson in her book, *Osler's Web*, that the CDC has ignored clinical and epidemiological evidence showing that Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) is a devastating infectious disease caused by a real pathogen rather than a psychosomatic illness, as the CDC has claimed. Ms. Johnson charges that researchers who share her view have been ostracized and denied federal funding.

She asserts that CFS is an immunological disease with many of the same characteristics as AIDS. She calls CFS "HIV-Negative AIDS" and reports the view of some others that HHV-6 may be a precipitating factor or a co-factor in CFS and in other immunological illnesses, including AIDS.

I have already contacted HHS Secretary Shalala requesting her reply to Ms. Johnson's disturbing allegations and I now urge that Congress direct the GAO to look into this matter as well.

STATEMENT to be READ ON THE FLOOR OF CONGRESS