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EARLY OUTPATIENT TREATMENT:  
AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A COVID-19 SOLUTION, PART II

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

United States Senate,  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.

1 But, you know, what I thought was interesting about it  
2 is--and I kind of lost my train of thought. I will move on.

3 Let's go to my final round of questioning, and we will  
4 start with Dr. Bhattacharya. By the way, real quick,  
5 because I want to ask you, I thought in your testimony two  
6 things were very stark, and I know you mentioned this with  
7 Senator Hawley. The 130 million people that the U.N. study  
8 showed were going to starve to death because of the economic  
9 devastation of the shutdowns, that now the World Health  
10 Organization says we should not be shutting down, and yet  
11 there are so many governors that are still pursuing that  
12 path.

13 The other one was--and I do not think this was in your  
14 testimony but I saw this in another writing--I have  
15 certainly been following it, and I have actually, in a  
16 couple of op-eds talked about the case fatality rate versus  
17 the infection fatality rate. I have been monitoring what  
18 the estimate is. The prediction is from Oxford Center for  
19 Evidence-Based Medicine, for months now they have been  
20 predicting the infection fatality rate is going to be  
21 somewhere between 0.1 and 0.4. I think now it is between  
22 0.1 and 0.35. You talked about, in an article, about these  
23 seroprevalent studies, 82 of them now, are kind of pointing  
24 to a 0.2 percent infection fatality rate.

25 Seasonal flu--and I have printed this out from the CDC

1 website--a bad year is about 0.18. So again, I am not  
2 downplaying COVID. As Senator Paul talked about, people he  
3 knows, as those of you who have treated, it is a deadly  
4 disease, and particularly for over 70, 5 percent of the  
5 people with COVID die from it, or with it. So I am not  
6 downplaying this. But I think you have to look at those  
7 numbers and ask, what have we done, and what is the human  
8 toll of our actions on a disease that long-term it looks  
9 like it is certainly worse than the flu, but is it that much  
10 worse, to cause that much economic devastation with that  
11 severe a human toll, 130 million people starving, and, of  
12 course, we heard all the other follow-ons.

13 But anyway, Dr. Bhattacharya, if you have your closing  
14 thoughts.

15 Dr. Bhattacharya. Sure. Thank you for this  
16 opportunity to testify and thank you for that lead-up. I  
17 mean, I think it is worse than the flu, but it has very  
18 different properties than the flu. Older people have a much  
19 higher rate of death from this than younger people. I mean,  
20 the flu also has that pattern but not quite so pronounced.

21 But the most striking difference in how we have dealt  
22 with the flu versus how we deal with this is not actually in  
23 the treatments and all that. I mean, there are obviously  
24 vaccines and other things. That is different. But the most  
25 striking thing is that in the case of the flu we do not