

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We are writing to inquire about the protocols and procedures that either exist or are being put in place to protect the United States and the international community from the threat of the Ebola virus disease (EVD). We have several questions about the measures being taken by the United States to protect our citizens and the world from this tragic epidemic.

We are aware that those traveling out of affected countries are being screened for symptoms of the Ebola virus using individual body temperatures. What, if any, screening is being done once travelers arrive in the United States from countries with confirmed cases of Ebola?

The individual being treated in Dallas, Texas had previously gone to the hospital displaying symptoms of Ebola and was quickly released without undergoing any tests, thus creating the potential to infect other people. Reportedly, the CDC has been providing medical facilities with suggested protocols to analyze and manage a patient's risk for Ebola. What follow up steps are being taken to ensure that these protocols are being followed?

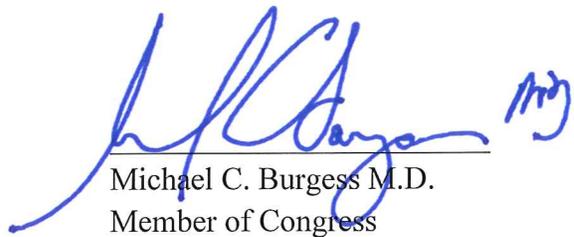
At present, are any travel restrictions from affected countries being considered? If not, were those restrictions previously considered and on what basis was a conclusion reached? Furthermore, at what point would such restrictions be revisited?

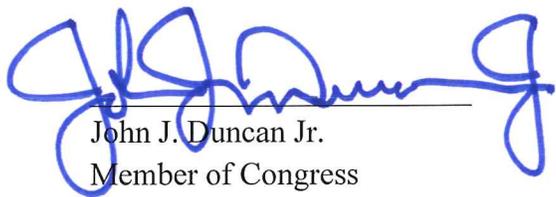
Without wanting to add to public fears, the events in recent days have shown that simply betting on our healthcare system's ability to respond may not be sufficient to prevent an outbreak here in the United States. There are many healthcare workers who are putting their lives on the line to care for the individuals infected with the Ebola virus in every way, from providing healthcare treatment to disposing of all hazardous materials. We owe it to them and to all our citizens to ensure that our public policy decisions are maximizing safety.

The current Ebola outbreak that began in West Africa is by far one of the most complex and challenging global health problems our nation has faced in decades. It is our hope that the United States is doing everything within our power to protect our citizens from this epidemic.

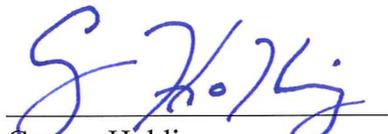
Sincerely,


Richard Nugent
Member of Congress


Michael C. Burgess M.D.
Member of Congress


John J. Duncan Jr.
Member of Congress


Scott Garrett
Member of Congress


George Holding
Member of Congress


Leonard Lance
Member of Congress


Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

CC: Director Tom Frieden, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention