Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 5, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

We write to express serious concerns regarding your Administration's failure to allocate nearly $600 million in available funding for Zika response efforts. As you know, the Zika virus is expected to have a significant impact on Texas given its gulf coast location, warm climate, and recent flooding. For these reasons, we hope that your Administration will increase its efforts to combat the Zika virus in Texas with the resources already available.

On April 6, 2016, your Administration used existing legal authorities to repurpose $589 million of available funds for Zika response activities. However, many news outlets are now reporting that nearly $400 million of this funding remains unspent. In other words, your Administration has not used all available tools to protect our constituents and the American People from the threat of the Zika virus. Given your Deputy Press Secretary's recent comments that "the keys here are sitting with Congress, and they have to turn them to release more federal funding," as well as your past comments that "the money is stuck in Congress," we are concerned that you and your Administration are attempting to give a false impression and shift the blame for failed leadership in combatting the Zika virus. For this reason, we ask that you provide prompt answers to the following questions:

1. To date, how much of the $589 million reprogrammed for Zika response efforts remains available?
2. What amounts have been allocated, to what agencies, and for what purposes?
3. How much has been distributed to states or localities through grants or other means, and for what purposes?
4. How much of this funding does your Administration plan to spend for Zika prevention and response efforts in the State of Texas?
5. What is the timeframe for distributing remaining available funds?
6. How much remains unobligated from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Ebola Economic Support Funds (ESF)?

Despite the fact that your Administration has failed to deploy the $589 million in existing available Zika response funds, Congress has made significant efforts to supplement these resources. On June 23rd, the House of Representatives passed a conference report which included an additional $1.1 billion for Zika prevention and response efforts, including the development of a vaccine and mosquito control efforts. Unfortunately, a minority of Senators

have repeatedly filibustered this legislation in an attempt to play politics and curry favor with special interest groups. In addition to our request that your Administration take increased measures to combat the Zika virus using existing available funds, we hope that you will join us in calling on Members of Congress to stop the filibuster of additional funding for Zika prevention and response measures.

Sincerely,

John Cornyn
United States Senator

Ted Cruz
United States Senator

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Ted Poe
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress

Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

John Culberson
Member of Congress

Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress

Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Will Hurd
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

John Carter
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

Brian Babin
Member of Congress