



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2014

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Frieden:

We write to express our serious concern regarding the second Dallas health care worker to test positive for Ebola and her ability to board a commercial flight while being monitored for signs of infection. Of particular concern are reports that the individual notified Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) personnel of an elevated temperature and she was not advised to avoid travel. The Federal Government should be using every tool at its disposal and within reason to prevent the spread of this deadly virus. Given recent reports that the CDC did not properly advise those it was monitoring in regards to the use of commercial air travel, we believe additional steps must be taken to restrict travel by individuals who are at risk of contracting, carrying, and spreading this disease, including certain health care workers, who we know are at high risk for exposure.

Specifically, we strongly urge the CDC to place any health care worker assigned to the treatment of an Ebola patient, or other person being monitored as a result of possible exposure, on the Do Not Board list enforced by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for a minimum of 21 days. This list should include: individuals who are providing or have provided direct treatment to an Ebola victim, including those who wore Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as the most recent reported case; individuals in direct contact with an Ebola victim exhibiting symptoms at the time of contact; and those dealing with uncontained medical waste from Ebola treatment. Given the deadly nature of this virus and its long incubation period, the Do Not Board list can serve as an added layer to protect public health and prevent a tragic situation from becoming much worse.

While we understand the Dallas health care worker who traveled on Frontier Airlines Flight 1143 may have exercised poor judgment, the bottom line is this individual should never have had an opportunity to take a commercial flight because the CDC's Do Not

Board list provides a concrete mechanism to stop this from happening. In light of these circumstances, please respond to the following questions by not later than October 21, 2014:

1. Why was this health care worker, who was being monitored for signs of Ebola infection, not placed on the Do Not Board list prohibiting commercial air travel until after the incubation period had passed?
2. Will the CDC now place all individuals being monitored and/or under quarantine on the Do Not Board list? If so, when will this take effect?
3. What procedures, if any, are currently in place to restrict health care workers or other individuals who have had direct contact with an Ebola victim from using public transportation systems, including passenger rail and mass transit systems?

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued commitment to public health and safety.

Sincerely,



RICHARD HUDSON
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation Security



SUSAN BROOKS
Chairman
Subcommittee on Emergency
Preparedness, Response, and
Communications

cc: Honorable John S. Pistole, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security