Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2014

Director Frieden
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Director Frieden,

The current Ebola epidemic in West Africa, and its subsequent arrival in the United States, has become a source of anxiety for many Americans. Over the past week, Ohioans in particular grew concerned about potential exposure to the virus when it was discovered that a nurse caring for an Ebola patient travelled within the state shortly before testing positive for the virus.

As elected Representatives of the people of Ohio, our primary concern is the health and safety of those we represent. It is our understanding that the Ohio Department of Health and the Governor's office are working to ensure effective protocols are in place and medical professionals are prepared should any resident of Ohio present symptoms of Ebola. We also understand that strict quarantine procedures have been designed by the Ohio Department of Health that would effectively prevent the spread of the disease if it is found in the State. We are encouraged by these proactive steps and hope that they ultimately prove unnecessary.

We write today to ask that the CDC provide any and all necessary support to the state of Ohio in determining any potential exposure, identifying those most at risk, and if necessary, containing and treating anyone that may have come in contact with the Ebola virus. We further ask for an explanation of the policies which allowed a direct caregiver to an infected person to travel to Ohio and what changes have been made to ensure the same does not happen in the future. Finally, we ask that the CDC keep all options for containment in mind moving forward, including travel screenings and restrictions, if appropriate.

We appreciate the effort being put forward to effectively prevent widespread exposure by federal, state, and local entities and will continue to monitor the effect of the Ebola virus on the people of Ohio and the rest of the country.

Sincerely,

John Boehner
Speaker of the House

James B. Renacci
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

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