

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Reid:

We are writing to urge that you reconvene the United States Congress so that the threat raised by the Ebola virus can be addressed immediately.

As you are aware, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that 8,900 people in West Africa have contracted Ebola and 4,450 people have died from the disease. Moreover, at least 150 individuals enter the United States from the Ebola affected nations daily. We have already seen one infected individual travel to the United States undetected. As a direct result, we have seen two of our nation's dedicated nurses become infected. Without improvements to border control, our nation runs the risk of additional Ebola cases reaching our shores. This is simply unacceptable.

The Obama administration has failed to recognize this public health threat. Thus far, the administration has refused to implement flight restrictions from affected countries, and provide effective screening process for travelers after they arrive on shores. The House and Senate must reconvene to direct the administration on what steps must be taken to protect the American people.

Congress must vote on legislation to implement commercial flight restrictions on African countries affected by the Ebola virus. This would be a common-sense step to prevent the spread of Ebola. These quarantine measures and travel restrictions were an essential part of the successful effort to control and eradicate the Ebola virus outbreak in Africa in the 1970s. Since the president has not recognized the threat that Ebola poses to the American people, Congress has a duty to the nation to address this threat.

Sincerely,



SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress



DAVID VITTER
Member of Congress