

Administration of Barack H. Obama, 2009

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Request for Funds to Enhance Capabilities to Combat the Global Influenza Outbreak
April 30, 2009

Dear Madam Speaker:

This week, as reports of the 2009 H1N1 flu outbreak around the world were made public, my Administration has been carefully monitoring the situation, coordinating State and local responses, assessing the risks here in the United States, and cooperating with international organizations and health officials around the globe.

Out of an abundance of caution, I asked the Congress earlier this week to consider a proposal to provide \$1.5 billion to enhance our Nation's capability to respond to the potential spread of this outbreak. As the attached detailed request reflects, these funds should be provided with maximum flexibility to allow us to address this emerging situation. Among the uses of these funds could be: supplementing anti-viral stockpiles; developing a vaccine; supporting monitoring, diagnostic, and public health response capabilities; assisting international efforts to stem this outbreak and to address related international needs.

Already, Federal, State, and local public health officials are working day and night to respond quickly and effectively wherever cases of this flu may be found and to prepare the entire country for any potential progression of this outbreak.

I urge the Congress to act expeditiously in considering this important request, the details of which are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 1.

Categories: Communications to Congress : Global influenza outbreak, enhancement of capabilities to combat, letter transmitting request for funds.

Names: Orszag, Peter R.

Subjects: Diseases : Global influenza outbreak; Health and medical care : Preventive care and public health programs; Science and technology : Vaccine development and research.

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