



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

February 9, 2016

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to inform you that in the coming weeks the Administration intends to transmit to the Congress a fiscal year (FY) 2016 emergency appropriations request of more than \$1.8 billion. We believe that, in addition to amounts provided in FY 2016, this funding request will significantly enhance and strengthen our ongoing efforts to prepare for and respond to the Zika virus, both domestically and internationally.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 50 laboratory-confirmed cases of the Zika virus among U.S. travelers from December 2015 – February 5, 2016. In addition, the Pan American Health Organization reports 26 countries and territories in the Americas with local Zika transmission. As spring and summer approach, bringing with them larger and more active mosquito populations, we must work together to be fully prepared to mitigate and quickly address local transmission within the United States, particularly in at risk areas such as the southern United States, and the U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico where transmission is already ongoing.

The requested funding would build on ongoing preparedness efforts and provide resources for the Departments of Health and Human Services and State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Funding would support immediate response activities to prevent the spread of, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus transmission; fortify domestic public health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to Zika virus transmission; speed research, development, and procurement of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics; provide emergency assistance to States and the U.S. territories to combat the virus; provide additional Federal Medicaid funding in Puerto Rico for health services for pregnant women at risk of infection or diagnosed with Zika virus and for children with microcephaly, and other health care costs; and enhance the ability of Zika-affected countries to better combat mosquitoes, control transmission, and support affected populations. In addition, funding transfer authority is requested to allow State and Federal Governments the flexibility to address changing circumstances and emerging needs related to the Zika virus.

The Administration requests that the funding described above be designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to ensure that the appropriate resources are available to respond to the Zika virus and bolster our ability to reduce the potential for future infectious disease outbreaks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shaun Donovan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shaun Donovan
Director

Identical Letter Sent to:

The Honorable Tom Price

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen

The Honorable Mike Enzi

The Honorable Bernie Sanders

The Honorable Harold Rogers

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey

The Honorable Thad Cochran

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski