

# United States Senate

October 2, 2014

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

I write to express my deep concern with the terrible outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa. On September 30, 2014 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first travel-related case of the Ebola virus in my home state of Texas. Since then I have spoken with Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell and she has offered her assurances that HHS and the CDC are acting vigorously to take every medical step to contain and stop the spread of Ebola.

Given the severity of this virus and the fact that its spread to Texas has been associated with travel, it is imperative that the FAA take every available precaution in preventing additional cases from arriving in the United States. As you may be aware, several African nations have already restricted or banned air travel to countries with confirmed cases of the Ebola virus. British Airways, Emirates Airlines and Kenya Airways have also suspended flights due to the rising death toll and deteriorating public health situation in Ebola-stricken countries.

In light of the upcoming holiday travel season, the American traveling public would like to be rest assured that their safety is not at risk and that your agency is doing everything within its authority to prevent the spread of this infectious disease. I request your response to the following questions:

1. What training is currently provided to airline carriers and their crew members to identify the symptoms of infectious diseases, such as Ebola, before a passenger boards a flight?
2. What specific action has the FAA taken since the first cases of the Ebola virus were reported in West Africa in March 2014?
3. Does the FAA intend to take any steps to limit or suspend air travel to countries that have experienced a significant Ebola outbreak?
4. Once a case has been confirmed will passengers receive notification that they traveled on the same flight as an Ebola patient?

5. Does your agency have any projections, studies or reports for how many additional Ebola cases may arrive in the United States due to air travel? If so, what additional steps is your agency taking to limit the spread of this infectious disease?

I look forward to your prompt response. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ted Cruz', is positioned above the typed name.

Ted Cruz  
United States Senator