

October 14, 2014

Dr. Thomas Frieden
Director
Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Dear Dr. Frieden:

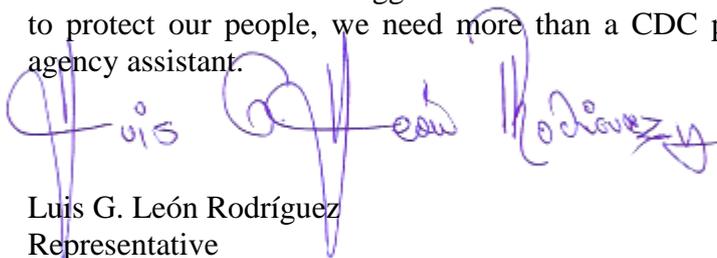
As you are well aware, the United States is facing one of its most pressing health crises in modern times. In less than a week, two people have contracted the Ebola Virus, with one unfortunately dying because of it.

The second patient contagious with this deadly virus was a certified nurse who was in care of Mr. Thomas Eric Duncan, the person who die two weeks ago of complications brought in by Ebola. This situation, and your public admission last week that there was a “breach” in the protocols of patient care, has place enormous pressure on an already strain healthcare system.

Put it simple, healthcare workers need more from the CDC that just a pamphlet on how to handle people with Ebola-like symptoms. We need hands-on training, from how to detect a person with the virus, to the way workers protect themselves. Recently, the President of the American Nurse Association, Karen Daley requested that the CDC provide on the ground training sessions on how to suit up and remove that protecting gear used by nurses and other healthcare personnel that work in direct contact with Ebola patients.

We are joining that request and officially asking for the immediate dispatch to the United States Territory of Puerto Rico, a Hazmats team of experts in the field of managing and disposal of bio-hazardous materials, including the use of protective gear and the early treatment of people with Ebola-like symptoms.

The situation in Dallas, Texas, could not be allowed to occur again. We need the resources of the federal government, most pressing, of the prestigious agency you represent, in order to protect our nurses, hospital staff, doctors and the countless other persons who labor in the healthcare sector. The struggle to contain the Ebola outbreak rest with all of us. We need the tools to protect our people, we need more than a CDC pamphlets, and we are requesting your direct agency assistant.



Luis G. León Rodríguez
Representative
Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly