

United States Senate

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room S-146A
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Blunt, and Ranking Member Murray,

I am writing to express concerns with 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and to request that the Senate Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee work with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to ensure robust funding for the outbreak response. On February 2, 2020, HHS informed Congress of the potential need to shift \$136 million from other funding streams to combat the growing public health threat.

At this point in time, China has reported over 20,000 confirmed infections and almost 500 fatalities. The outbreak has also extended to over 20 additional countries, including the United States, where the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed "person-to-person spread." In response to the outbreak, both the World Health Organization and the United States have declared Wuhan coronavirus a public health emergency.

HHS, through a number of its agencies, is actively leading critical prevention, containment, and supply chain stability efforts. We must serve as a collaborative partner and ensure that there is sufficient funding for both current and potential future efforts.

I appreciate the Senate Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee's attention towards this outbreak, and request proactive funding coordination to support HHS with both the federal and local public health response.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator