

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 21, 2020

Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Director Redfield and Secretary Pompeo,

We write in response to the information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notice on January 17 entitled “Public Health Screening to Begin at 3 U.S. Airports for 2019 Novel Coronavirus.” The notice stated that “travelers from Wuhan to the United States will undergo entry screening for symptoms associated with 2019-nCoV at three U.S. airports that receive most of the travelers from Wuhan, China: San Francisco (SFO), New York (JFK), and Los Angeles (LAX) airports.” Over the weekend, reports emerged confirming cases of the Novel Coronavirus had spread to South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, and Japan.

We are extremely concerned about the possibility of a person who has been in contact with the Novel Coronavirus traveling through airports in the United States. Therefore, we respectfully request a response to the following questions:

- 1) What is the rationale for not providing additional resources to all of the major U.S. international airports that screen passengers daily from China, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, and Japan?
- 2) Have you received any assurance from the Government of China of public screening activities that would provide you confidence in their efforts? If so, what was that assurance?
- 3) What other preparations are you currently undertaking now that the Novel Coronavirus has spread to the United States?

As we await your response, we also request you consider sending similar supplemental resources to Newark Liberty National Airport (EWR), in addition to the three airports to which you have already deployed additional personnel. As you know, Newark Liberty is a major hub for international travel. According to data compiled by the Office of Aviation Analysis, part of the

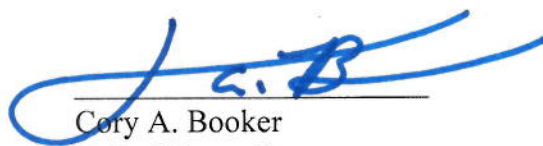
United States Department of Transportation, Newark Liberty was the fifth busiest airport in the United States by international passenger traffic in 2018.

As the situation is developing rapidly and new cases continue to be confirmed, we kindly ask that you respond by Friday, January 24, 2020. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator