



# State of Connecticut

## SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**SENATOR TONI BOUCHER**  
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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

October 17, 2014

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Chris Murphy  
One Constitution Plaza, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

Senator Richard Blumenthal  
90 State House Square, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

Congressman Jim Himes  
888 Washington Boulevard, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Stamford, CT 06901

Dear Sirs,

The ongoing outbreak of Ebola in West Africa has focused public attention on the ability of the federal and state governments to respond effectively to the virus. So far there have been three confirmed cases on American soil. A patient admitted to Yale New Haven Hospital has also been tested for Ebola. Although preliminary test results showed that the patient does not have the virus, this incident has created understandable anxiety about the vulnerability of our state. To date the state of Connecticut has undertaken the following safety measures:

- The state has an Emergency order to quarantine an individual or group of individuals.
- State Department of Public Health commissioner has invoked the Emergency order.
- State Public Health officials are going above and beyond what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is requiring.
- A Unified Command Team from several state agencies will be responsible for coordinating resources with public if need be.
- The Command Team will be charged with making sure the appropriate training is made available to all first responders.
- 2-1-1 United Way is on alert to help public understand the facts surrounding Ebola.
- The state is asking all entities including hospitals, large and small along with acute care facilities to have an Ebola drill with-in the next week.

Although these are all sensible and necessary precautions, many have expressed concern that they may not be sufficient in the event that Connecticut did confirm a case of Ebola. Among the most important

advice that has come out of West Africa's experience with Ebola has been to establish one point of entry per hospital. If a patient is found to have Ebola they would be sent to a dedicated facility properly equipped to handle Ebola cases as a way to isolate the patient from the general hospital population. There are currently only four U.S. hospitals with specialized isolation units, and this may not be enough. Each state should have its own facility. These are all options that public health officials in the state and federal governments should discuss as a means of providing the public with additional protection.

Some have also suggested that the United States limit entry from the countries most affected by the virus until this outbreak has been contained. This is a decision that must be made by the federal government, and I encourage Connecticut's congressional delegation to bring this issue forward for discussion. I also encourage them to work with their colleagues to improve federal guidelines and procedures related to Ebola that will allow the federal government to rapidly assist any hospital handling a confirmed case of the virus.

Public officials should be doing all they can to ensure that our residents are well-informed and protected. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Toni".

Toni Boucher  
State Senator