

PATRICK E. MURPHY
18TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
211 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3026
FAX: (202) 225-8398

www.patrickmurphy.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

COMMITTEES
FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CAPITAL MARKETS AND
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE
INTELLIGENCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERHEAD ARCHITECTURE AND
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
AND CYBERSECURITY

August 16, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

As you know, Zika is an ongoing crisis in the State of Florida. With nearly 500 travel-related cases and 30 non-travel-related infections, government at all levels must be doing all it can to fight this virus. I recently toured the Scripps Research Institute in my district and met with scientists who are working on a vaccine and therapies. There, researchers indicated a need for live samples of locally acquired Zika in order to study the virus' behavior and rapid mutations, in comparison to existing strains of the virus.

It has come to my attention that state and local health departments, in addition to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Biomedical Advanced Research Development Authority, have collected serum from Zika-infected patients in Florida. How can officials best isolate samples based on geographic location of transmission? Would providing location-based samples to researchers be beneficial for the fight against the virus? If so, what steps may be taken to provide the samples to research facilities in the most expedient and secure way?

Thank you for your leadership in our nation's fight against Zika. While I will continue to push Congress to fully fund the President's \$1.9 billion request for Zika research and mosquito control efforts, we should be working efficiently and creatively with existing resources, including giving researchers all tools that could lead to a breakthrough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick E. Murphy".

Patrick E. Murphy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS