

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 18, 2016

Tom Frieden, M.D., MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Frieden:

The Zika virus, transmitted primarily through mosquito bites, has now begun to spread rapidly in South America. The recent outbreak has been linked with serious neurological disorders and life-threatening birth defects. On January 28, 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that Zika is “spreading explosively” throughout the Americas.

Florida is one of several U.S. states that are on the front lines of combating the spread of the Zika virus. So far there have been over fifteen cases of the mosquito-borne illness reported to health authorities in Florida, leading Governor Rick Scott to declare a public health emergency and place 7 counties on alert. Due to Florida’s climate, it is especially susceptible to mosquito-borne tropical diseases carried by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which is prevalent in Florida. Furthermore, Florida is often the port of entry for visitors from South America and returning vacationers—this, coupled with its climate, place Florida at an increased risk.

We would like to thank the CDC for its quick actions in filling Governor Scott’s request for 950 additional Zika virus antibody test kits. Florida now has 1,425 kits available to test for the virus. As more states report infections it is imperative to stay vigilant. We implore you to continue to work with the state of Florida as it is on the front lines combating the virus.

Sincerely,



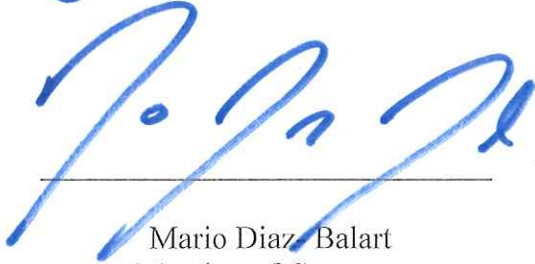
Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



Curt Clawson
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



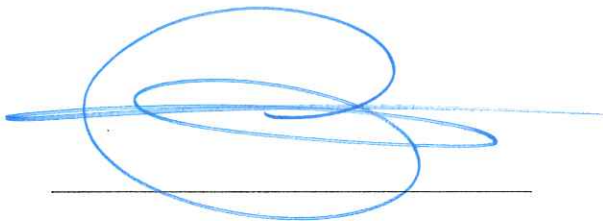
Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress



John Mica
Member of Congress



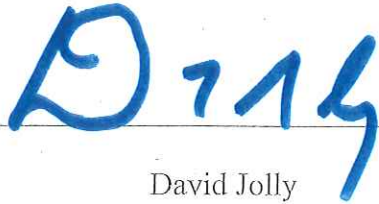
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Thomas Rooney
Member of Congress



David Jolly
Member of Congress




Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress