

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2016

Lawrence F. Probst, III  
Chairman  
United States Olympic Committee  
One Olympic Plaza  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Dear Chairman Probst:

As proud supporters of the U.S. Olympic Team and our outstanding athletes who are preparing to travel to Brazil to participate in the upcoming Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, we write to ask what steps the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) is taking to assist and protect our athletes against the spread of the Zika virus.

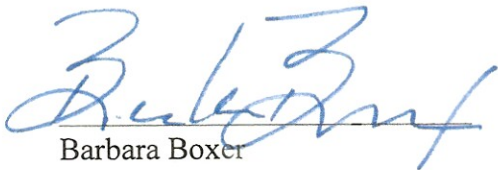
According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Brazil is the epicenter for the spread of the virus with at least 120,000 suspected cases of Zika—nearly half of all the suspected cases in the Americas.

Recent information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that the Zika virus may be more of a threat than initially anticipated. Research has not only linked the virus to severe birth defects, including microcephaly, in babies born to infected mothers, but to possible neurological effects in adults. There are additional concerns about the duration that the virus lasts in an infected individual so there could be possible cases of transmission in the United States long after the Games have concluded.


Given this context, we hope that the USOC is prepared to work with health authorities both here in the United States and in Brazil to help ensure that all the necessary steps are taken to protect our athletes as they compete this summer.

We stand ready to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

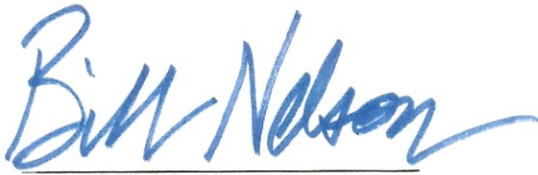


Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

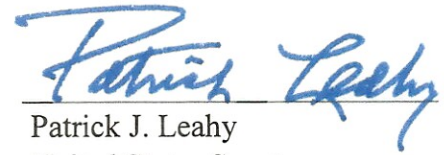


Patty Murray  
United States Senator

CC: Sarah Konrad, Chair of the United States Olympic Committee Athletes' Advisory Council



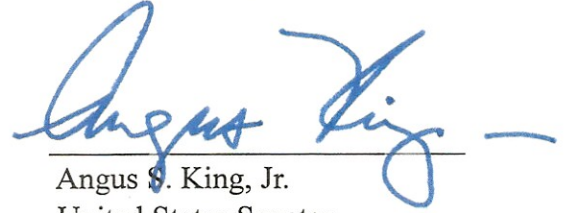
Bill Nelson  
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senator



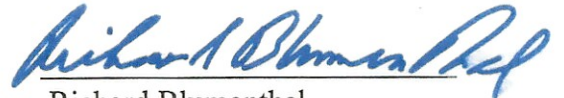
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



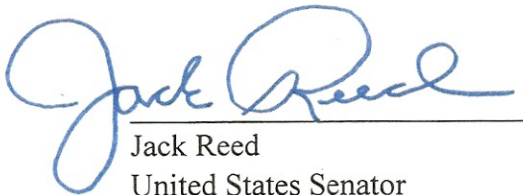
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



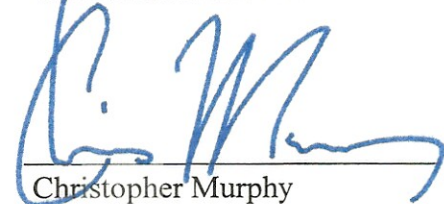
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator