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March 20, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, SW
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf and Secretary Pompeo:

In light of the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration of a COVID-19 pandemic, I write to urge your respective departments to implement requirements for entry into the United States that are consistent with scientific and public health expertise, as well as best diplomatic practices.[1]

Although local officials have done crucial work screening travelers at airports and other ports of entry, the U.S. government has not provided clear guidance to these officials or provided frontline employees with sufficient safety equipment.[2] Moreover, it appears that President Trump made his announcement of a ban on travelers to the United States from Europe without consulting its leaders and against the advice of public health experts.[3] This lack of coordination

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[1] World Health Organization, *WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19* (Mar. 11, 2020), https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020.

[2] John Shiffman, Marisa Taylor &, Joseph Tanfani, *U.S. airport screeners, health workers plagued by fear and anger as coronavirus spreads*, Reuters (Mar. 7, 2020), https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-workers-insight/u-s-airport-screeners-health-workers-plagued-by-fear-and-anger-as-coronavirus-spreads-idUSKBN20V00T.

[3] James McAuley & Michael Birnbaum, *Europe blindsided by Trump's travel restrictions, with many seeing political motive*, The Washington Post (Mar. 12, 2020), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/europe-blindsided-by-trumps-travel-restrictions-with-many-seeing-political-motive/2020/03/12/42a279d0-6412-11ea-8a8e-5c5336b32760_story.html
Jen Kirby, *Trump's Europe travel ban might not do much to stop the coronavirus's spread in the US*, Vox (Mar. 11, 2020), https://www.vox.com/2020/3/11/21175949/europe-travel-ban-coronavirus-trump.

led to waits at U.S. airports of seven or more hours, with crowds packed into small spaces, contrary to the CDC's advice, as people rushed to return to the United States on Saturday, March 14, 2020.[4] This Administration's continued ill-advised and reckless decision-making only serves to aggravate the harmful and deadly ramifications of these missteps. President Trump has cut funds for global health programs — making Americans less safe from pandemics and public health threats[5] — and has cut or zeroed out pandemic-fighting investments the United States made during the Ebola crisis.[6] Each of these decisions has detrimentally affected both our ability to lead a worldwide response to COVID-19 and protect our nation, despite the best efforts of local authorities and public health officials.

Throughout this crisis, the Trump administration has shied away from exerting U.S. leadership and encouraging global coordination. The Administration has repeatedly, against expert scientific and medical guidance, demonized "foreign" countries, and now, in the words of President Trump, blamed the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States on a "foreign virus"[7] and a "Chinese virus"[8] — despite the majority of U.S. cases originating within our own borders.[9]

The Trump administration's inability to lead and protect community health has left the American public and our allies confused. The United States is unprepared to rapidly implement appropriate, science-based travel restrictions and entry requirements, and unwilling to proactively communicate plans to our diplomatic partners. It is imperative that the United States closely coordinate with our partners worldwide and with the WHO in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We must take steps immediately to rebuild trust with our diplomatic partners, share information, and coordinate steps to fight COVID-19 together. This virus is our global common enemy, and the United States must lead a global response, not an "America First" response.

To understand the Administration's planned actions to address these needs, I request answers to the following questions by March 31, 2020:

1. What scientific evidence did the Administration consider in deciding to ban travelers from certain European countries from entering the United States, while exempting

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[4] Richard Fausset et. al, *Airports Reel as New Coronavirus Screening Goes into Effect,* N.Y. Times (Mar. 15, 2020), https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/us/airports-coronavirus.html.
[5] Wayne Drash, *Cuts to CDC epidemic programs will endanger Americans, former chief says*, CNN (Feb. 5, 2018), https://www.cnn.com/2018/02/03/health/cdc-slashes-global-epidemic-programs-outrage/index.html.
[6] Katie Coester, Emily Conron & Danielle Heiberg, *5 Things to Know About US Global Health Funding for FY 2020*, Global Health Now (May 6, 2019), https://www.globalhealthnow.org/2019-05/5-things-know-about-us-global-health-funding-fy-2020.
[7] Brian Bennett, *Why President Trump Wants to Frame COVID-19 as a 'Foreign Virus,'* Time (Mar. 12, 2020) https://time.com/5801628/donald-trump-coronavirus-foreign/.
[8] Sarah Pulliam Bailey, *Evangelical leader denounces Trump for calling coronavirus the 'Chinese virus,'* Wash. Post (Mar. 17, 2020), https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2020/03/17/evangelical-leader-denounces-trump-calling-coronavirus-chinese-virus/.
[9] Mitch Smith et al., *Tracking Every Coronavirus Case in the U.S.: Full Map*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 12, 2020) https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html.

travelers from the United Kingdom, Ireland, and other countries that have verified COVID-19 cases? Why did the Administration belatedly add the United Kingdom and Ireland to the ban?

2. Will the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screen passengers arriving from countries not subject to existing travel bans in order to determine whether they have recently traveled to banned locations?
3. Will the airlines, the Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or state public health officials screen all arriving international passengers, regardless of origin, for illness? How is DHS coordinating with public health authorities for enhanced screening procedures at the thirteen airports selected for those procedures?
4. What happens if a sick passenger presents at an airport or other port of entry, particularly if it does not occur at one of the thirteen selected airports?
5. How are you supporting those currently awaiting adjudication by U.S. officials as they "remain in Mexico" and run the risk of contracting COVID-19 and other diseases in camps along the U.S.-Mexico border?
6. Do DHS employees at *all* ports of entry — air, sea, and land — have adequate protective equipment in light of the pandemic and their extensive public contact?
7. Does the State Department have adequate resources and personnel for potential evacuations of U.S. citizens from overseas? How is the Department communicating with U.S. citizens overseas about their options to come home or shelter in place?
8. What is the State Department's plan to accelerate work with the WHO to address the COVID-19 threat?
9. What is the State Department's role in, and policy for, facilitating the collection and sharing of high-quality, timely, and comprehensive public health surveillance data generated in the United States with the WHO and other international partners?

I look forward to your timely and detailed responses. If you have any questions about these requests, please contact (b)(6) of my staff at (b)(6)

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

From:	(b)(6) [redacted]
To:	Mizelle, Chad [redacted]
Subject:	RE: IMPORTANT UPDATE: COVID-19 AND RACISM CONCERNS
Date:	2020/04/01 11:50:49
Priority:	Normal
Type:	Note

(b)(6) [redacted]

leadership or career management approval.

From: Mizelle, Chad [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:48 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: IMPORTANT UPDATE: COVID-19 AND RACISM CONCERNS

(b)(6) [redacted]

Chad Mizelle
Acting General Counsel
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
M: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:46 AM
To: Mizelle, Chad <[redacted]
Subject: FW: IMPORTANT UPDATE: COVID-19 AND RACISM CONCERNS

Emphasis added is mine.

From: Community Engagement <communityengagement@HQ.DHS.GOV>

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 3:39 PM

To: Community Engagement

Subject: IMPORTANT UPDATE: COVID-19 AND RACISM CONCERNS

Dear Community Partners:

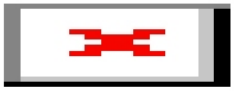
The Department of Homeland Security, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, has heard from many of you who have expressed concerns regarding the bigoted rhetoric surrounding COVID-19. As the public health situation continues to develop, the ensuing fear and anxiety has led to the spread of false information and racist behavior.

Community stakeholders have reported to us acts of xenophobia and how certain businesses are suffering due to harmful and hateful misinformation. We take these reports seriously and are continuing to track incidents as they happen. If you or someone that you know has experienced any type of harassment or discrimination due to COVID-19, please contactCommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov.

We would like to emphasize that if members of your community have been or may be the targets of possible hate crimes or other forms of violence, it is imperative that you contact your local law enforcement officials immediately.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



cid:image004.png@01D25B9C.DD09D2C0

Community Engagement
Office for Civil Rights &Civil Liberties
US Department of Homeland Security
Washington DC 20528

Sender:	(b)(6) [redacted]
Recipient:	Mizelle, Cha[redacted]
Sent Date:	2020/04/01 11:50:48
Delivered Date:	2020/04/01 11:50:49
Message Flags:	Unread