

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 6, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

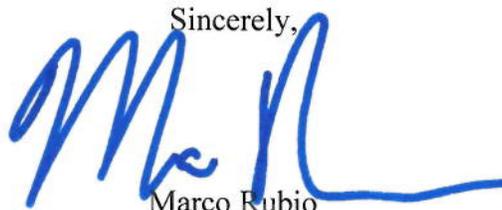
Dear Chairmen Cochran and Rogers, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you know, for the third time, Democrats in the Senate have blocked passage of funding necessary to combat and prevent the spread of the Zika virus in the United States. When we last voted on this important issue in July, there were approximately 1,300 cases of Zika in the continental United States and 2,900 cases in U.S. territories. Unfortunately, these numbers have more than doubled, to approximately 2,700 cases of Zika in the continental United States and 14,000 cases in U.S. territories. These are not statistics, they are real people, and we cannot allow politics to get in the way of our health officials and experts combatting this growing public health crisis.

I continue to support supplemental legislation to fund the fight against Zika, but I am writing to urgently request that any legislation to fund the federal government beyond September 30, 2016, include additional resources for the ongoing effort to combat and hopefully eradicate this virus. Due to the unfortunate opposition by Senate Democrats, Congress has not passed additional funding for far too long and, in doing so, has failed the American people.

I appreciate your consideration of my request and stand ready to assist in making sure we fulfill our duty to protect our constituents.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Harry Reid  
The Honorable Paul Ryan  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi