

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

December 24, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

As you know, as part of the FY 2015 spending package, Congress appropriated nearly \$2.8 billion to your department to be used for preparedness and response to the Ebola virus. I am writing to urge you to use a portion of these funds to adequately support Minnesota's ongoing efforts to prepare for, and to respond to, this virus.

Preparing U.S. healthcare facilities to identify, isolate, and evaluate patients with possible Ebola infection has been a top priority for our healthcare system. Minnesota has stepped up to this challenge by designating four Ebola treatment centers throughout the state. In addition to these four designated hospitals, many other healthcare facilities throughout the state are increasing their efforts to prepare and respond to the virus. According to the Minnesota Hospital Association, costs for Ebola preparedness just for the four designated Minnesota hospitals have already exceeded \$875,000.

As part of its many responsibilities, the Department of Health and Human Services has an important role to play in supporting the work of our healthcare facilities in Ebola preparedness and response. I therefore urge you to work with Minnesota hospitals and health care faculties to ensure that they are both reimbursed for their previous efforts, and adequately supported for future efforts on preparing and responding to this disease.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact me, or Ali Nouri or Chase Crawford on my staff, at 202-224-5641

Sincerely,



Al Franken  
United States Senator