



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

June 15, 2016

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-4027

Dear Dr. Frieden:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Zika virus last week. As a follow-up to our conference call, today I write to formally invite the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to come to Texas and review Texas' Zika Virus Preparedness and Response Plan. Having the CDC's input on that plan before it is finalized — and before Zika takes a foothold in Texas — is critical. As governor, I am committed to taking all necessary measures to prepare and protect Texans from the Zika virus.

Like the CDC, the State of Texas, along with our local partners, is taking steps to prevent and prepare for local transmission of the Zika virus. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has engaged with the CDC, local leaders, residents, health care providers, schools and the media to ensure that the state provides accurate information on the virus and is prepared for a local transmission.

To aid our preparedness efforts, Texas has applied for grants from the CDC for three important projects. Specifically, we have submitted the following grant applications:

- \$1.5 million to support Zika preparedness and response efforts (CDC-RFA-TP16-1602);
- \$360,000 to support Zika-related birth outcomes surveillance (CDC-RFA-DD16-1605); and
- \$9.2 million to strengthen epidemiology and laboratory capacity, and improve health information systems (3U50CK000378-3, CDC-RFA-CK14-140102PPHF15).

In light of our discussion last week, I wanted to ensure you were informed about our pending grant applications and urge the CDC to move as swiftly as practicable to approve them.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue the dialogue on Zika preparedness that has been ongoing between public health officials at the CDC and DSHS. With the benefit of the CDC assets on the ground in Texas working with DSHS and our Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH  
June 15, 2016  
Page 2

Response, we can ensure that we are developing and implementing the strongest possible Zika virus response.

Thank you for your service to the United States and for your commitment to working with Texas to address this very significant issue. Dr. John Hellerstedt, Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, will contact your staff to follow-up on our requests for the CDC's assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

GA:mcl