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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Letter	[Letter from Harry Reid] - To: POTUS - From: Harry Reid, et al	3	10/04/2005	Transferred

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### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 4, 2005

676108  
HE001

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to express our grave concern that the nation is dangerously unprepared for the serious threat of avian influenza. This deadly new strain of flu is highly lethal and could easily become a worldwide pandemic. It is spreading in Southeast Asia today, and could threaten the lives of millions of Americans tomorrow. Dr. Lee Jong-wook, Director-General of the World Health Organization, warns that "No Government, Head of State, or Minister of Health can afford to be caught off guard. There is a storm brewing that will test us all.... Failure to take this threat seriously and prepare appropriately will have catastrophic consequences."


We are deeply concerned that the Administration is not adequately heeding this warning and is failing to take the steps essential to protect the nation from this major disease. Dr. Michael Leavitt, Secretary of Department of Health and Human Services, recently admitted that the nation is not as prepared as we need to be. This lack of advance planning and inadequate preparedness can have tragic consequences when disaster strikes.

The Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness Plan, which the WHO deems essential to proper readiness, has yet to be finalized, despite having been released in draft form over a year ago. As a result of this inaction, preparations for an avian flu pandemic have been needlessly delayed. The nation's public health infrastructure is weak, and our hospitals lack adequate surge capacity – yet the Administration has proposed cuts in the very programs that provide critical elements in our preparedness for epidemics. The Administration has also failed to meet the World Health Organization recommendations for building stockpiles of vaccine and anti-viral medication.


Action is urgently needed to address the threat of pandemic flu. Last week, the Senate approved a Democratic amendment to the Department of Defense appropriations bill to begin providing the resources needed to address this threat. Specifically, the amendment provides \$3.9 billion to stockpile antivirals and necessary medical supplies; expand global surveillance and domestic vaccine infrastructure; improve state and local emergency preparedness centers and hospital surge capacity; and provide risk communication and outreach to providers, businesses, and to the American public.

We urge you to release the final Pandemic Influenza Plan without further delay, allocate the resources necessary to address this threat and take the steps necessary to protect the American people.

Sincerely,

  
Harry Reid

  
Edward Kennedy

  
Barack Obama

  
Tom Harkin

Kent Conrad

Robert A. Neuberger

Russell W. Feingold

John McCain

Jack Reed

Herb Kohl

Charles Schumer

Daniel J. Akaka

Debbie Stabenow

John H. Chafee

Marco Pryor

Ron Wyden

Patty Murray

Mark Dayton

Tom F. Kelly

Patrick Leahy

Chris Dodd

Barack P. Oberweiser

Tim Wirth

Dick Durbin

Tom Lays

Byron L. Dorgan

Frank R. Lautenberg

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Ernie Boyle

Carl Levin

Paul Sarbanes

Ken Salazar

Max Baucus

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