

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 30, 2009

Dear Madam Speaker:

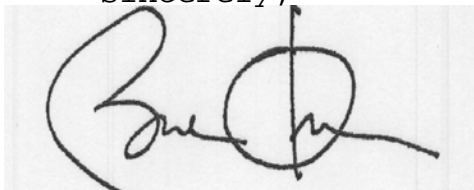
This week, as reports of the 2009 H1N1 flu outbreak around the world were made public, my Administration has been carefully monitoring the situation, coordinating State and local responses, assessing the risks here in the United States, and cooperating with international organizations and health officials around the globe.

Out of an abundance of caution, I asked the Congress earlier this week to consider a proposal to provide \$1.5 billion to enhance our Nation's capability to respond to the potential spread of this outbreak. As the attached detailed request reflects, these funds should be provided with maximum flexibility to allow us to address this emerging situation. Among the uses of these funds could be: supplementing anti-viral stockpiles; developing a vaccine; supporting monitoring, diagnostic, and public health response capabilities; assisting international efforts to stem this outbreak and to address related international needs.

Already, Federal, State, and local public health officials are working day and night to respond quickly and effectively wherever cases of this flu may be found and to prepare the entire country for any potential progression of this outbreak.

I urge the Congress to act expeditiously in considering this important request, the details of which are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written over a light-colored background.

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosure



THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

April 30, 2009

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

Submitted for your consideration is a request for \$1.5 billion to enhance our Nation's capability to respond to the potential spread of the 2009-H1N1 influenza outbreak.

This proposal would provide maximum flexibility to allow your Administration to target its responses and resources as this emerging and unpredictable situation evolves. It is necessary to have this flexibility to respond in a manner that is most appropriate to the path of this outbreak. Immediate activities may include supplementing anti-viral stockpiles; developing a vaccine; supporting monitoring, diagnostic, and public health response capabilities; assisting international efforts to stem this outbreak and to address related international needs. The request also includes the flexibility to adjust the preparations for a recurrence in the fall or winter or for future pandemics.

This requested FY 2009 supplemental appropriation would be provided to a proposed new account, Unanticipated Needs for Influenza, in the Executive Office of the President. These funds would be available for transfer by the Office of Management and Budget to Departments and Agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and others, for the purposes stated and only upon congressional notification.

I have carefully reviewed this request and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Orszag".

Peter R. Orszag
Director

Enclosures

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

UNANTICIPATED NEEDS

Unanticipated Needs for Influenza

(Including Transfer of Funds)

For an additional amount for emergency expenses to prepare for a pandemic influenza, to enhance the response to the 2009-H1N1 influenza outbreak, and to assist international efforts to control the spread the 2009-H1N1 influenza outbreak and respond to international needs relating to the 2009-H1N1 influenza outbreak, \$1,500,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That these funds may be transferred by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to other Federal Departments and Agencies, shall be merged with the appropriation to which transferred, and shall be available only for the purposes provided herein: Provided further, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be transferred to any Department or Agency unless the Director of the Office of Management and Budget has submitted notice thereof to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority available in this or any other Act: Provided further, That upon a determination by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget that all or part of the funds so transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts shall be transferred back to this appropriation to be merged with this account.

This proposal would provide a total of \$1.5 billion for immediate support to address the 2009-H1N1 influenza outbreak and to enhance the Nation's preparations for a pandemic. The immediate activities may include procurements of countermeasures as needed, increased public health response capacity, and humanitarian assistance for international outbreaks. The request also includes the flexibility to adjust the preparations for a recurrence in the fall or winter or for future pandemics. Transfers may be made to Departments and Agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and others. As the rapidly evolving and unpredictable outbreak progresses, it is necessary to have maximum flexibility to respond in a manner that is most appropriate to the path of this outbreak.