

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to recognize the severe
2 threat that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa poses to
3 populations, governments and economies throughout the world,
4 including the United States, and increase efforts to contain
5 and eradicate this disease.

6 WHEREAS, Ebola hemorrhagic fever is an extremely infectious
7 virus that causes severe illness with a fatality rate that can
8 well exceed 50 percent; and

9 WHEREAS, Ebola is spread through contact with blood,
10 secretions or other bodily fluids of infected humans and animals
11 and can have an incubation period of up to 21 days; and

12 WHEREAS, The outbreak of Ebola in West Africa is the biggest
13 and most complex to date due to its emergence in populated,
14 transient border areas, making containment a significant
15 challenge; and

16 WHEREAS, To date, according to the Centers for Disease
17 Control and Prevention, Ebola has infected more than 4,400
18 people in West Africa and caused nearly 2,300 confirmed deaths;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, There have been 3 confirmed cases of Ebola in the
2 United States; and

3 WHEREAS, Although Ebola can be contained with good public
4 health and burial practices, it continues to spread due to a
5 lack of accurate public information, sufficient treatment
6 facilities and public health information; and

7 WHEREAS, Governments are collaborating closely with
8 international donors and taking strong measures to contain the
9 virus, including announcing states of emergency and establishing
10 emergency response centers; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Government has provided more than
12 \$175 million in support through the Centers for Disease Control
13 and Prevention, the United States Agency for International
14 Development, the World Health Organization and the United States
15 Armed Forces since February 2014, and intends to mobilize
16 additional resources and support as announced by President Obama
17 on September 16, 2014; and

18 WHEREAS, Earlier this year, the United States Government
19 joined with partner governments, the World Health Organization,
20 other multilateral organizations and nongovernmental actors to
21 launch the Global Health Security Agenda, a 5-year commitment to
22 prevent, detect and effectively respond to infectious disease
23 threats such as Ebola; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
26 States to recognize the severe and immediate threat that Ebola
27 poses to populations, governments and economies throughout the
28 world, including the United States, and to fully support the
29 work of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the
30 United States Agency for International Development, the

1 Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human
2 Services, the Department of State, the Forest Service and other
3 United States Government agencies providing technical,
4 logistical and material support to combat this epidemic; and be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That Congress encourage deepened United States and
7 international commitments to the global Ebola response and
8 support the promotion of investments in global health in order
9 to ensure that governments can better prevent and detect,
10 contain and eventually eliminate outbreaks of disease while also
11 providing other essential health services; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That Congress work with other nations and regional
13 organizations to establish institutional emergency response
14 systems to more effectively respond to this and future outbreaks
15 of Ebola and other highly infectious diseases; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
17 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
18 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
19 Pennsylvania.