



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**October 16, 2014**  
**Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations**  
**Hearing on "Examining the U.S. Public Health Response to the Ebola Outbreak"**  
**Congressman Bruce Braley**  
**Opening Statement**

Thank you. Today, we must make sure the Administration is doing everything possible to prevent the spread of Ebola within the United States. Our number one priority in combating this disease must be the protection of Americans.

My heart goes out to those suffering from this epidemic, and I'm very proud of the hard work done by American troops, doctors, nurses, and volunteers to combat the disease. Congress must come together, put aside partisan differences, and help stop this outbreak.

Today, I hope to hear what steps the Administration is taking to prevent the spread of Ebola and respond to the outbreak. I'm greatly concerned that the Administration did not act fast enough. The Administration needs to look at all options available to keep our families safe, and they need to move quickly and responsibly to make any necessary changes at our airports and hospitals that would prevent this disease from spreading further. And I'm going to ask specific questions on their plans for that.

One of the most important allies we have is a company in Ames, Iowa called NewLink Genetics, with 120 employees working around the clock. NewLink has an Ebola vaccine that could help stop this disease, and they

are currently trying to secure a contract with HHS to expand their manufacturing, so I hope to hear how HHS is moving forward as quickly as possible.

Thank you to the witnesses for being here today, and I look forward to a thoughtful and productive conversation.