

**Representative Gene Green (TX-29)**

**Opening Statement**

**O&I Subcommittee: “Examining the US Public Health Response to the Ebola Outbreak”**

**October 16, 2014**

Thank you for yielding.

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa is the worst in recorded history.

Since the outbreak came to the attention of the global community, we have seen an exponential rise in the number of cases and fatalities.

This is a growing situation that requires a swift and robust response from the global community.

This outbreak has cast a glaring light on the fragile and failing health systems in Africa, and revealed shortcomings in our public health infrastructure here at home.

Today, I am interested in better educating myself and the general public on what protocols have been updated since the first travel associated case was diagnosed in the U.S. and what protocols were in place when it happen.

It is important to gain clarity on where the CDC’s authority begins and ends, and where regulatory and enforcement responsibilities lie with state and local institutions, and hospitals.

We must learn from what has happened and improve protocols, address education gaps, and give providers and physicians the tools they need.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.

I yield back.