

**Question for the Record submitted to
Dr. Charles Rosenfarb, Bureau of Medical Services, by
Chairman Paul Cook (#1)
House Foreign Affairs Committee,
Western Hemisphere Subcommittee
September 6, 2018**

Impacted Personnel and Family Members:

Question 1:

What is the Department doing to ensure that U.S. State Department personnel and affected family members to provide for care, including long-term care in some cases?

Answer 1:

The Department arranged for medical evacuations for impacted employees and family members to U.S. medical centers for all necessary evaluations. Required care has been provided to individuals at medical centers of excellence, and health care costs have been covered primarily through the individual's Federal Employees Health Benefits program health insurance. The Department's Medical Program has authorized secondary payer coverage for associated residual costs of assessment and treatment for at least one year. The Department is also encouraging individuals to file Workers' Compensation claims with the Department of Labor. Once the Department of Labor determines that a claimant is entitled to benefits, future health care costs, including for long-term care if needed, would be covered. Lastly, the Department is exploring how to assure similar coverage of longer-term health care for affected family members not eligible for the Workers' Compensation program.

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Question 2:

Are there any legislative issues preventing the Department from taking actions in response to the incidents that we should be aware of, particularly as it relates to long-term care and treatment for affected people?

Answer 2:

We have encouraged all those U.S. Government employees affected by these incidents to file claims with the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, which provides for long-term coverage for the treatment of work-related injuries. However, there may be potential legislative actions the Administration can seek in order to cover other individuals who may not be eligible for existing coverage. A comprehensive analysis of potential coverage gaps continues within the interagency. The Department considers the care of our employees, family members, and others affected by these incidents as its uppermost priority.