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Congress of the United States
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CHAIR

March 3, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Secretary Azar and Director Redfield:

I write to express my concern regarding news reports that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not provided critical information about cases on U.S. patients infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) with physicians, thereby impeding the ability of medical personnel to adequately respond to this serious outbreak. I urge the CDC to provide the necessary clinical data on COVID-19 to doctors, who are on the frontline of this epidemic.

As the coronavirus continues to spread in the United States and abroad, it is vital that our public health response to this global outbreak is rooted in facts. With over 100 confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States, including instances where individuals have recovered from the disease, CDC already has detailed clinical information on the medical treatments and outcomes of several coronavirus patients.

As the federal agency responsible for coordinating the response to infectious diseases, the CDC is uniquely positioned to disseminate information on coronavirus and help physicians diagnose and treat COVID-19 patients. At the moment, the majority of the CDC's public guidance is dependent on Chinese research. This is despite multiple U.S. hospitals having provided information to the CDC on coronavirus cases. It is unacceptable that the CDC has only shared detailed clinical information on one patient who has recovered from the virus.

In closing, I urge the CDC to improve on its information sharing with medical personnel. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to a timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Luis Correa".

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress