



NEW JERSEY SENATE

JOSEPH M. KYRILLOS, JR.

SENATOR, 13TH DISTRICT

MONMOUTH COUNTY

10 STATE HIGHWAY 35

RED BANK (MIDDLETOWN TWP.), NJ 07701

732-671-3206

FAX: 732-706-9140

EMAIL: SenKyrillos@njleg.org

COMMITTEES
MEMBER, JUDICIARY
MEMBER, ECONOMIC GROWTH

February 3, 2015

The Honorable Jennifer Velez, Esq.
Department of Human Services
222 South Warren Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Commissioner Velez,

It has come to our attention through recent media reports that a section of Fort Monmouth was designated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to house individuals traveling from overseas who may have been exposed to the Ebola virus.

This, at a time when it is estimated that thousands of hospital beds lay empty in New Jersey. Moreover this is a time when New Jersey is attempting to market Fort Monmouth as a place for businesses to grow, create jobs and serve as an area for new housing opportunities.

We are requesting that you please address the following concerns we have received from constituents:

- What is the legal basis that gives you the authority to designate sections of Fort Monmouth as a quarantine facility? Please cite the specific statute, rule or regulation that gives you the authority to make this designation.
- With Hackensack University Medical Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and University Hospital in Newark having been designated by the Governor as the primary treatment facilities in New Jersey was there a justifiable need for a fourth facility to be designated?
- Was there a request by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or by any other Federal agency that requested the state to secure an additional facility?
- What were the procedures that DHS followed in determining that Fort Monmouth could serve as quarantine facility given that it currently sits vacant and there are empty hospital beds across the state?

- Why designate a facility that would require a large amount of rehabilitation to serve as a biocontainment center?

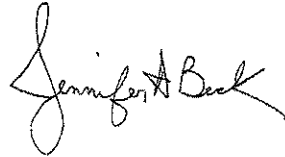
Based on our limited information and the overabundance of empty hospital beds in New Jersey we need to understand why Fort Monmouth will be used as a quarantine facility.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to better understanding how this decision was made.

Sincerely,



Senator Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr.



Senator Jennifer Beck



Assemblywoman Amy Handlin



Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini



Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon



Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande