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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515 - 3006

June 19, 2019

Secretary Mike Pompeo
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Director Christopher A. Wray
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 7240
Washington, DC 20535

Secretary Pompeo and Director Wray:

I am writing today regarding the unexpected and highly suspicious deaths of at least nine American tourists in the Dominican Republic. I urge you to provide the bereaving families with consistent updates as the Department of State works with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Government of the Dominican Republic to determine the cause of death for these individuals. I also strongly encourage you to reassess the Dominican Republic's Travel Advisory rating to accurately reflect possible risks associated with travel to the country.

As you are aware, reports ranging back to June 2018 indicate that several American tourists to the Dominican Republic have contracted life-threatening illnesses and survived. Unfortunately, at least nine American tourists without pre-existing illnesses experienced similar symptoms, including pulmonary edema, bleeding, and vomiting blood and, death during their visits to the Dominican Republic. Most recently, Joseph E. Allen III, 55, from Avenel, New Jersey, which is in my Congressional District, was found dead on the morning of June 13, 2019, in his hotel room at the Terra Linda in Sousa, Dominican Republic. Mr. Allen's shocking and unexpected death shares similar circumstances to the other deaths reported in the Dominican Republic.

The circumstances surrounding the untimely deaths of nine Americans is heartbreaking, and I ask that you immediately take steps to update the bereaved families and ensure they are given all information on the cause of their loved one's death as the investigation continues. I also urge you to expedite a reassessment of the Travel Advisory for the Dominican Republic to make sure American travelers have a full understanding of travel risks.

Additionally, I ask the Department of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide my office with an update on the current investigations of these illnesses and deaths, and what possible steps can be taken to prevent any further loss of American lives.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress