

KYRSTEN SINEMA
ARIZONA

317 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4521

ARIZONA:
3333 E. CAMELBACK RD, SUITE 200
PHOENIX, AZ 85018
(602) 598-7327

<http://sinema.senate.gov>

United States Senate

March 4, 2020

COMMITTEES

BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Honorable Michael R. Pence
The Vice President
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Vice President Pence:

I write today regarding the development of a government-implemented passenger portal, which we discussed on Tuesday, March 3. In the face of a public health crisis, we must work together to protect Americans both here and abroad from a potential global pandemic.

Contact tracing across all U.S. ports of entry is a key function that will enable the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to contain the coronavirus and future threats from communicable diseases. The CDC outlined the data it needs to properly trace travelers in its "Interim Final Rule: Control of Communicable Diseases: Foreign Quarantine." Currently, there is no tool that provides reliable data to the CDC. We must address this gap in information immediately.

A single online webform, implemented by the government, would allow the CDC to directly collect information from travelers and provide for a more complete, accurate, and timely collection of data. This will also ensure that all persons entering the United States are held to the same standard, and that the public can have confidence that individuals in need of care will receive it in a safe, timely, and effective manner.

Working with private industry partners, the government could have an application ready for consumer use within two weeks and a webform ready within four weeks.

As the situation continues to evolve, the government must continue to coordinate with states and with industry, and accurately and clearly communicate with the public. I urge you to move forward with the development of a government-implemented passenger portal. I also ask that you work with Congress to ensure you have appropriate funding and authority to immediately implement the portal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator