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Arthur B. Spitzer
Legal Director

November 5, 2014
By email and postal mail

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Gentlemen,

This is to inform you that I am representing Athena Viscusi, a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker who recently returned to the District of Columbia from Liberia, where she worked with Ebola patients from September 19 to October 20 under the auspices of *Médecins Sans Frontières* (Doctors Without Borders).

Ms. Viscusi is symptom-free and has been reporting her temperature twice daily to the Department of Health; it has consistently been below 98°F. She will report any symptoms to the Department of Health immediately and will comply with appropriate medical protocols in the event that she develops any symptoms.

Nevertheless, the Department of Health has been pressing her to sign a form agreeing to “isolate” herself voluntarily “in lieu of forced quarantine.”

There is no valid reason why Ms. Viscusi should isolate herself, and no legal basis for any “forced quarantine.” As I’m sure you know, Ebola can be transmitted only when a person with the disease is actively symptomatic, and even then only by contact with bodily fluids. While Ms. Viscusi had contact with Ebola patients, she was wearing appropriate personal protective equipment at all times. It has now been sixteen days

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since her last contact, and the risk that she will become symptomatic, and therefore infectious, is quite low, as symptoms generally manifest within two weeks.

Ms. Viscusi's job as a social worker does not involve invasive medical procedures, but even so she does not intend to see clients until 21 days after her last contact with Ebola patients. Her ordinary daily activities do not pose a risk to anyone, including her friends and neighbors, who have had the good sense not to be afraid of seeing her.

I hope that the Department of Health has no plans to take any action regarding Ms. Viscusi. I hereby formally request that the Department, or the Office of the Attorney General, notify me by email and telephone at least 24 hours in advance of seeking a quarantine order or taking other action. I would appreciate your acknowledgement that you will do so.

Yours for science-based decisions,

Arthur B. Spitzer