

Congressman Brady Writes a Letter to Update Constituents Concerning Ricin Discovered in a Senate Mail Room (2/20/04)

February 20, 2004

Dear 1st District Constituent,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the status of mail delivery to the US House of Representatives. As I'm sure you know, a letter containing the poisonous substance ricin was discovered in a U.S. Senate mail room during the first week of February 2004. As a result, all incoming mail to House Office Buildings, including mine, was halted, screened and destroyed. I am pleased to inform you that First class mail delivery from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) resumes today, three days earlier than previously announced. The mail delivery resumes under new protocols for ensuring the safety and security of everyone who visits or works on the House campus. While the volume of mail delivery will start out low, it will gradually increase as the new security procedures are expanded to full capacity.

There is a possibility that letters or packages you recently mailed to my office never arrived. Additionally, we have not and will not receive an inventory of diverted and destroyed mail. As such, we have no way of knowing whether any particular letter was among those destroyed.

I value every letter from my constituents and I deeply regret any inconvenience this incident may have caused you. Our expert sources have assured us that there has been no indication of contamination from outgoing government mail. The letters you receive from Federal offices, including mine are safe. Additionally, there has been no sign of contamination of mail to any state or district offices of Members of the Congress. So any letters you may have mailed to my district offices were not destroyed.

As the mail delivery resumes, please remember that you may also reach me via fax or email. In order to reach me via email, please log onto my website at www.house.gov/robertbrady and fill out the web form. The web form can be accessed from the CONTACT section of my homepage.

My office contact information is as follows:

Telephone:

FAX

Washington:

(202) 225-4731

(202) 225-0088

South Philadelphia:

(215) 389-4627

(215) 389-4636

Port Richmond/Lower Northeast
Philadelphia:

(215) 426-7741

(215) 426-7741

Chester City,
Delaware County:

(610) 874-7094

(610) 874-7193

Sharon Hill, Delaware
County:

(610) 237-1666

(610) 237-9257

I thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,