

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

We write to emphasize the need for immediate bipartisan legislative action in the midst of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the most significant public health and economic crisis of our lifetime. Congress must set aside partisan politics and work together to advance substantive policies that provide needed relief to communities nationwide. Our families, state and local governments, hospitals, and businesses will face the dire consequences of inaction, and it is incumbent on Congress to swiftly consider further measures to mitigate the catastrophic impacts of this crisis.

Since March, Congress has passed four bipartisan packages in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These packages have included substantive measures to strengthen our healthcare system, provide direct relief to American families, and address the significant economic impacts of this crisis. We applaud these efforts and urge bipartisan leadership to ensure Congress continues working together to find solutions to the challenges facing our nation.

One of the most pressing matters is the dire need for additional relief to state and local governments. State and local governments are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis, enduring significant emergency response costs while simultaneously facing crippling shortfalls in tax revenue. These budgetary conditions will only become more dire in the months ahead, with state and local governments facing significant challenges in their ability to maintain basic functions such as emergency response, public works, and educational services. Congress must act quickly to support state and local governments and ensure these fundamental services remain available to our constituents.

While Congress has enacted legislation that provides meaningful funding to healthcare providers and hospitals, more must be done to support countless healthcare facilities that still face critical

staffing and equipment shortages as they work tirelessly to combat the pandemic. In addition to direct aid for hospitals responding to the pandemic, it is imperative that Congress works to ensure every American in need has access to quality healthcare during this crisis by supporting telehealth services and securing access to treatment for mental illness and substance use disorders.

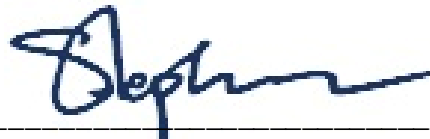
Congress must also remain responsive to the crippling uncertainty facing American businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Harsh economic conditions and suspended operations have had a catastrophic impact on many significant employers in our districts, endangering their ability to keep the doors open and keep workers on the payroll. While the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act created programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program and the Employee Retention Tax Credit to address the immediate impacts of this crisis, additional support is needed to address the long-term consequences of COVID-19 for businesses and working families. Building on the successes of these programs and expanding the availability of relief for struggling businesses will help reduce layoffs and ensure a quick economic recovery.

The gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic should not be understated. Bipartisan leadership is essential to addressing the many challenges facing our country. Congress must act now, putting politics aside to support and protect the American people in these difficult times.

Sincerely,



John Katko
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Bipartisan Relief Package Letter: List of Signatories

Elise Stefanik

Brian Fitzpatrick

David P. Joyce

Conor Lamb

Susan W. Brooks

Fred Upton

Sanford Bishop

Henry Cuellar

Anthony Brindisi

Jim Costa

Max Rose

Kendra Horn

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