

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2020

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

As Congress takes action today to finalize “Phase 3” legislation **responding to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)**, the undersigned organizations, who are dedicated to protecting the health of children, families, and the most vulnerable in our nation, **strongly urge Congress to move legislation forward that includes least \$150 billion in direct aid to states for fiscal relief as they deploy their resources to address critical health needs and absorb the related economic crisis.**

The United States is facing a public health emergency greater than any we have seen in several generations. Moreover, the virus and the necessary social distancing measures made necessary to cope with its spread are already having profound impacts on the economy. Many experts warn our country may experience a deep recession. Additional state fiscal relief funding is critically needed to address public health demands, give states financial resources to cover COVID-19 related needs, and help states absorb the economic impact of this crisis, including preventing major state budget cuts and massive layoffs in state and local government at the worst possible time.

We also urge Congress to act swiftly and in the near-future to enact an additional, emergency increase of 12 percent to Federal Medicaid matching funds. These dollars would provide essential support to states as health care services are sought by the tens-of-millions of children, parents, people with disabilities and seniors that rely on Medicaid for health care services.

Our requests are on behalf of the people of this nation and are not rooted in political ideology. That is why these urgent recommendations also were **proposed and supported by the [nation’s Governors](#) on a bi-partisan basis.**

Congress must take immediate action. Public health experts both within and outside of the federal government warn that the virus outbreak is likely to substantially worsen in the coming days and weeks. The downstream economic effects are only beginning to be felt. **We implore Congress to act swiftly to address these priorities.**

Sincerely,

National Groups

Families USA
1,000 Days
ACCSES
AFSCME
Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Art Therapy Association
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family
Therapy
American Association for Psychoanalysis in
Clinical Social Work
American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
America's Health Insurance Plans
America's Physician Groups
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health
Organizations
Autism Society of America
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Benefits Data Trust
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Public Representation
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Health Fund
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment
Community Catalyst
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good
Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy &
Action
Epilepsy Foundation
Every Mother Counts
Faces & Voices of Recovery
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
First Focus Campaign for Children
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ
Equality
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social
Justice
Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community
Churches
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
HealthConnect One
Health Care for America Now
Health Leads
Hemophilia Federation of America
Human Rights Campaign
Immunization Action Coalition
International Union, United Automobile,
Aerospace & Agricultural Implement
Workers of America (UAW)
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
LeadingAge
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lutheran Services in America
March for Moms
March of Dimes
Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP Services Dental
Association
Muscular Dystrophy Association
NAACP
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS
Directors (NASTAD)
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the
Good Shepherd

National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
National Dental Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH)
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Black Child Development Institute
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Consumers League
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Council of Gray Panthers Networks
National Council of Jewish Women
National Disability Rights Network
National Eating Disorders Association
National Employment Law Project
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
National Health Law Program
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Register of Health Service Psychologists
National Respite Coalition
National WIC Association
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Not Dead Yet
Nurse-Family Partnership
Physicians for Reproductive Health

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Postpartum Support International
Power to Decide
Prevent Blindness
Primary Care Collaborative
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
Redstone Center for Prevention and Wellness
RESULTS
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
SMART Recovery
Society for Public Health Education
Starr Commonwealth
Susan G. Komen
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
Treatment Communities of America
Triage Cancer
United Way Worldwide
Young Invincibles
Youth Villages
ZERO TO THREE

State Groups

Alabama

Vietnamese Initiative to Empower Communities

Alaska

Alaska Children's Trust

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families Sources, Inc

California

California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals

California Health Advocates
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena
Oaxaqueño
CRLA Foundation
Family Care Network, Inc.
Korean Community Center of the East Bay
Maternal and Child Health Access
Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project
VISION Y COMPROMISO
WestCoast Children's Clinic
Congress of California Seniors
The Children's Partnership
Street Level Health Project

Colorado

Center for Health Progress
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
FMC-CAHEP
The Consortium

Connecticut

Health Equity Solutions
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Florida

Catalyst Miami Inc.
Farmworker's Self-Help
Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy
Greater Tampa Bay Oral Health Coalition
North Florida Educational Development
Corporation

Georgia

Georgians for a Healthy Future

Idaho

Idaho Oral Health Alliance

Illinois

Heartland Alliance
Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
Indivisible Illinois

Legal Council for Health Justice
Protect Our Care Illinois

Kentucky

Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Kentucky Voices for Health

Louisiana

Disability Rights Louisiana
Lawyer's Reentry Consulting

Maryland

Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative
Public Justice Center

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Michigan

Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan League for Public Policy
TrueNorth Community Services

Minnesota

Let's Smile, Inc.
Minnesota Oral Health Coalition

Mississippi

Mississippi Health Advocacy Program

Missouri

Empower Missouri

Nebraska

Children's Hospital & Medical Center
Nebraska Appleseed

Nevada

Immunize Nevada

New Jersey

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and
Addiction Agencies, Inc.

New Jersey Policy Perspective

New Mexico

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

New York

Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health
Families Together in New York State
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Inc.

North Carolina

Goldsboro Pediatrics, PA

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Policy Institute

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Women's Law Project

South Carolina

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Tennessee

League of Women Voters of Nashville
Legacy Life Care Programs
Tennessee Justice Center

Texas

Center for Public Policy Priorities
Children's Defense Fund – Texas

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
National Association of Social Workers - Texas
Chapter
Texans Care for Children
Trinity Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas
UUFHC

Utah

Epilepsy Foundation Utah
Utah Health Policy Project
Voices for Utah Children

Virginia

Social Action Linking Together (SALT)
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
Virginia Organizing

Washington

Arcora Foundation
Northwest Harvest
Surge Reproductive Justice
The Washington Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics

West Virginia

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Wisconsin

Community Development Authority
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice