

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader McConnell,

We write to urge you to continue working towards a bipartisan supplemental COVID-19 relief package of \$22.5 billion, with \$17.5 billion being used on domestic supplies and treatments and \$5 billion to fight the pandemic abroad. While we were happy to see the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 signed into law, finally delivering stable funding to crucial federal programs, we were disappointed to see the funding for additional COVID-19 relief stripped.

It is critical to our nation's public health and the economy that these additional funds be passed soon. Without them, much of the progress we have made in fighting this pandemic and returning to normalcy will be lost. The Administration has made it clear that without additional funds the distribution of monoclonal anti-body treatments will be scaled back, and additional vaccines cannot be purchased in the event a fourth booster is needed.¹

Uninsured individuals will be most affected as they will no longer have access to free tests and treatments. In parts of the country, people without insurance will have to pay \$55 to be tested, a significant financial burden.² Immunocompromised individuals will also be severely impacted as the federal government will no longer be able to purchase enough treatments for this population.

Funding is especially needed to continue efforts to vaccinate the pediatric population since only 41 percent of children ages 5 to 17 years old are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.³ To protect our country's public health and the economy it is necessary funding for these programs be

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/15/fact-sheet-consequences-of-lack-of-funding-for-efforts-to-combat-covid-19-if-congress-does-not-act/>

² <https://keyt.com/lifestyle/community/2022/03/24/federal-funding-for-covid-19-testing-ran-out-free-testing-sites-to-charge-in-santa-maria/>

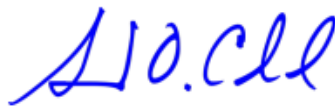
³ <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/covid-vaccine-tracker-states/>

replenished. Communities across the country badly need these funds to continue combatting COVID-19.

Lastly, without an additional \$5 billion, efforts to reach unvaccinated populations in countries without the means to produce and deploy vaccines will end.⁴ Providing this support abroad is crucial to mitigating emerging variants and bringing the pandemic under control.

We urge you to continue working on a viable path forward to swiftly pass \$22.5 billion in additional COVID-19 relief. We stand ready to work with you in a fiscally responsible way and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Nanette Barragán
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/15/fact-sheet-consequences-of-lack-of-funding-for-efforts-to-combat-covid-19-if-congress-does-not-act/>



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress