



# Combating Coronavirus

Senate Democrats | March 17, 2020

# America is experiencing an **UNPRECEDENTED** public health and economic emergency

- Public health experts are warning that the U.S. is **woefully unprepared** to treat our citizens impacted by the virus.
- Schools are closing and essential health care workers are **struggling** to find child care.
- Economists are now forecasting a need for **federal fiscal stimulus** that could easily exceed the response to the 2008 Great Recession.

The most **vulnerable victims** of this crisis are working people and their families, especially our seniors and children.



# Who are we fighting for?

- House and Senate Democrats have made it very clear from the beginning of the COVID-19 Outbreak – **Families and Workers First.**
- Our states and cities are telling us they need more resources quickly – medical supplies, small business relief, unemployment insurance, and more.

If President Trump and Senate Republicans demand rescue packages for corporations and industries, ***Democrats must fight for American workers and communities to get the benefits of taxpayer assistance.***



# Massive Federal Response Needed to Fight COVID-19

- **It is clear that a massive investment** will be required to save the country from an economic and health crisis.
- **More than a decade of underinvestment** in our public health system is exposing our weaknesses.

**Our social safety nets *must* be rebuilt.**

We propose a **\$750 billion package as an initial emergency response** to protect America's workers, the businesses they support, and the middle class amidst the coronavirus crisis.



# Massive Federal Response Needed to Fight COVID-19

1. **First, we need a massive funding injection of emergency appropriations** to target programs designed to support a pandemic response. (*\$400 billion*)
2. **Second, we need to support the social safety net** designed to help the vulnerable during economic downturns. (*\$350 billion*)
3. **Third, we need essential policy changes** to further ensure hard-working Americans don't fall through the cracks into financial ruin due to no fault of their own.



# We propose **\$400 billion in emergency appropriations** divided among the following efforts:

- **Medical Surge:** hospital beds, ventilators, masks and equipment, ensure affordable care for COVID-19 patients.
- **Child Care:** a large injection of federal funding for child care, especially for health care workers needed to respond to the crisis.
- **Small Business:** Low-interest loans and loan forgiveness



# \$400 billion in emergency appropriations (ctd.)

- **Seniors:** rental, food and financial assistance as well as home-based health care.
- **Public Housing:** rental, mortgage and utilities assistance.
- **Schools and Children:** Protections for students of all ages, whose schools may be closed and are thus lacking basic needs, including housing and meals.



# \$400 billion in emergency appropriations (ctd.)

- **Public Transportation relief:** Relief for public transportation to ensure continued operations until normal ridership resumes.
- **State and Local Relief** like CDBG, EDA, and FIRE grants for Governors, Mayors, Tribes, and Fire Departments to mitigate and recover
- **Resilient infrastructure like Broadband internet** connectivity so that American workers and students stuck at home can manage amidst the crisis.



We propose a **\$350 billion supplemental safety net package** to support America's most vulnerable.

### **Unemployment Insurance:**

- Increase Benefit Size
- Waive waiting period
- 13-week extension for current enrollees
- Expand work-sharing eligibility to avoid layoffs
- Automatic extensions during life of recession



# **\$350 billion supplemental safety net package (ctd.)**

## **Medicaid**

- Increase FMAP percentage to the States
- Automatic extensions during the recession

## **SNAP**

- 15 percent benefit increase
- Automatic extensions during the recession

## **Student debt**

- Cancel Monthly Student Payments and Have Federal Government Pay



We propose **several key policy reforms** to ensure hard-working Americans don't fall through the cracks during this crisis.

## Let People Keep Their Money During the Crisis

- Six months of forbearance for ALL federally backed mortgages
- Moratoriums on all evictions and foreclosures



# Key policy reforms (ctd.)

## Expand Unemployment Insurance's Reach

- Expand coverage during the crisis to cover the gap on paid sick days.
- Open up UI to gig workers and the self-employed.



# Key policy reforms (ctd.)

- Utilize the National Guard and DoD
- Targeted Funding for Indian Country
- Remote Learning and Closing the Homework Gap
- Credit Score protections
- Buy America requirements
- Protecting prisons from COVID-19



# Workers must come first in any industry rescue

- **Workers must receive majority of the benefits** of any federal aid package and aid will be clawed back if workers don't benefit.
- **Businesses must also comply with strict requirements** on the aid, especially keeping workers in their jobs and labor protections.
- **Rescued businesses must provide mandatory paid sick leave** and a \$15 minimum wage for all direct employees.



