



Public Policy: News You Can Use

Everything coronavirus – What Congress Has Done and Where Are We Now:

- On Friday, March 6, 2020, the President signed into law: H.R. 6074, the “Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020” (Public Law 116-123), which provides additional fiscal year 2020 emergency supplemental funding for combatting the spread of the coronavirus at the local, State, national, and international levels and to prepare for the impacts that it may have on the Nation. It includes money for developing, manufacturing, and procuring vaccines, grants for state, local, and tribal public health agencies, loans for affected small businesses, evacuations and emergency preparedness activities.
- On Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the President signed into law H.R. 6201, the “Families First Coronavirus Response Act, (PL 116-127)” which provides for supplemental appropriations related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as waivers and modifications of Federal nutrition programs, employment-related protections and benefits, health programs and insurance coverage requirements, and related tax credits during the COVID-19 public health emergency
 - Here is the enrolled bill sent to the President
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6201/text?r=1>
 - See previous News You Can Use for details on Leave issues
- The Senate is drafting the third bill to address the crisis.
 - Today, the senate majority leader Mitch McConnell outlined its key elements: help for small business, money for people from the middle-income down, loans for industries, and extensive help in the health care sector. The proposal would also address some of the costs to employers for the benefits they provide to employees.
 - Here is the bill and summary:
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text?r=1>
 - Article on this:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2020/03/20/trump-corona-virus-senate-economic-plan/>

- o The minority leader then spoke of the need to have this bill focus on the workers of America, with no bailout of industry without strict provisions to make sure workers are protected and executives are not benefitting. He also addressed the need to focus on hospitals, ventilators and other supplies, the health care workers, using the Army Corps of Engineers to build temporary hospitals, and keeping transportation running.
 - Senator Schumer's COVID-19 Public Health and Economic Emergency Proposal: See Attached
 - C-3 Appropriations and Policy Summary (as of 3-17-20): See Attached
- o Here are links to the legislation that Senator Casey and other Democrats have drafted to address the needs of people with disabilities and older adults. This will be blended into the Senate Republican bill. The Coronavirus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities Act would:
 - Increase funding for nursing home surveys to promote infection control, and fund long-term care ombudsmen
 - Cover the cost of treatment for low-income seniors and boost the economy
 - Promote home and community-based services and protect home health workers
 - Make sure seniors and people with disabilities have healthy food and other services at home
- o [Bill Text \(linked here\)](#)
- o [One-pager \(linked here\)](#)
- **Letter from The Disability and Aging Collaborative to Leaders McConnell and Schumer:** We are asking these leaders to support the provisions in the package passed by the House on Saturday, providing increased reimbursement for state Medicaid programs, emergency requirements for all health insurers to cover COVID-19 testing free of charge, paid sick days and paid leave, and expanded nutrition assistance. The letter attached.
- The OMB sent a letter to Congress on March 17 with the following request, which the Democrats in the House called inadequate:

“At this time, the Administration is requesting additional fiscal year (FY) 2020 funding in the amount of \$45.8 billion. In addition to the emergency supplemental resources requested in this letter, the Administration also seeks to amend its FY 2021 Budget request for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). This FY 2021 Budget amendment increases funding for CDC to ensure that the Agency has the resources beginning October 1, 2020, to continue its critical public health mission. This amendment requests a total FY 2021 funding level of \$8,329,102,000 for CDC, which is \$1,328,196,000 above the FY 2021 Budget request. The additional funding will support priority CDC activities such as Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Global Health, Public

Health Preparedness and Response, and the Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund, among other activities. The additional funding is also for the proposed America's Health Block Grant to allow States and localities to address their most pressing non-infectious disease issues.

The Budget amendment would also increase funding for NIAID to ensure it has the resources beginning October 1, 2020, to continue critical basic and applied research on coronaviruses and other infectious diseases. NIAID is NIH's leading institute on infectious disease research and is at the forefront of the Federal Government's pursuit of a vaccine for the novel coronavirus. This FY 2021 Budget amendment would increase the NIAID total funding level within: the NIH to \$5,885,470,000, which is \$439,584,000 above the FY 2021 Budget request.”

CCD Task Force Appropriations Letter: Draft to Chairs Shelby and Lowey, Vice Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Granger. The letter is attached.

AARP Letter to Senators and Representatives: to protect residents in nursing homes and other residential facilities. Read the letter here:

<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/politics/advocacy/2020/03/03172020-aarp-federal-legislative-recommendations-covid19-final.pdf?intcmp=AE-HP-LL1>

Employee Considerations – March 16:

<http://www.wnj.com/Publications/COVID-19-Important-Employee-Benefit-Considerations>

Healthsperien COVID-19 Resources: Executive Summary – COVID-19 Analysis of Potential Impacts on Health Care System: See Attached

COVID-19 Issue Brief #1: Potential short and long-term effects on health care utilization and spending (March 2020): See Attached

National Hospice Stakeholders: Legislatives Asks to Leader Mitch McConnell and Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Final Letter: See Attachment

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Coronavirus (COVID-19):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Resources for Health Center – COVID-19 Resources:

<https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response>

Feedback and input appreciated!

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