

PROBLEM SOLVERS CAUCUS
CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE
HEALTH CRISIS & ECONOMIC REVIVAL PACKAGE

Working together to find the light through the darkness.

A bold, bipartisan plan to provide immediate relief during the crisis and to help reboot the country when it's over.

Immediate Action

1. Economic Response for Businesses, Employees and the Self-Employed

Actions Taken to Date

3-6-20 \$8.3 Billion Enacted Relief Package; 3-13-20 National Emergency Action; 3-14-20 House Passed Legislation; 3-18-20 President Signed Package into Law.

- *Paid Family Leave:* The House passed bipartisan relief for individuals and small-to-mid-size businesses (500 employees or less) allowing for a tax credit for certain employers who will be providing employees with paid family and medical leave due to health crisis related circumstances. Such leave consists of 80 hours of immediate, paid time off with additional potential leave thereafter.
- *Small Business Loans:* The House passed bipartisan increased funding for small businesses through Small Business Administration (SBA) loans.
- *Flexibility for Unemployment Insurance for Hourly Workers:* The House passed bipartisan increasing funding and flexibility for unemployment insurance to account for furloughed workers.
- *Taxes Due:* Delay for 90 days payment obligations, for those small and medium size businesses and individuals who need it.

Proposed Action

- *Immediate, Direct Financial Payments to Individuals through Unemployment Insurance Benefits:* Limited only to the crisis, significantly increase unemployment insurance benefits, including payment amounts, for hourly and salaried workers, under a certain income threshold. Provisions to be made for freelancers and the self-employed to ensure the same relief.
- *Loans to Help Keep Businesses in Business:* Low-or-zero-interest loans to businesses of all sizes willing to keep their employees (furlough, but preserving benefits) in their positions during the coronavirus crisis. Must include long-term repayment options, and not exclude any industries. This “bridge” relief would not be limited to any one industry,

to avoid picking winners and losers or favor of any special interest. We are open to prioritizing those industries acutely impacted as a result of this public health crisis to ensure the relief flows immediately. We should also consider utilizing government backstop guarantee for SBA and other capital lending vehicles to ensure financial resources are given the certainty they need and, therefore, are more to flow into economy forthwith. We must protect and preserve our businesses and jobs.

- *Contract and Insurance Protections for Existing Contract and Business Insurance Policies:* Legislatively declare the coronavirus a public health crisis, and, as such, a qualifying event for all existing force majeure contract provisions and business interruption insurance policies. This does not interfere with the payer's right to judicial review following the crisis.
- *Loan Deferral and Forbearance:* Develop and allow loan deference, modification, and forbearance mechanisms for individuals and businesses of all sizes, during the crisis (e.g. mortgages, lines of credits, student loans, and other qualifying loans). Regulators should alert financial institutions that such loan actions will not adversely impact the leverage and other requirements of such oversight. Also, appropriate regulatory relief should be considered to ensure lending is not unnecessarily hampered with burdensome “red tape.” We need to get these resources out as quickly as possible.
- *Protect Credit Ratings:* During the crisis, suspend negative credit reporting information to credit bureaus.
- *Supply Chain:* We need to address issues facing larger businesses and manufacturers, including the availability of increased liquidity and limited disruptions to the supply chain. Solutions may include involvement from federal resources to maintain logistical operations.
- *Federal Reserve:* Deploy and utilize tools to help stabilize the market and increase activity, including rate cuts and additional liquidity injections.
- *Refundable Tax Credit to Employers for Employee Retention:* During the crisis, provide immediately advanceable, refundable tax credits for employee retention by employers -- including maintaining employment status or providing benefits for furloughed employees.
- *Housing:* During the national crisis, stay all foreclosure and evictions proceedings.

A. Health Care & Food Security Needs; Other Matters

Actions Taken to Date

3-6-20 \$8.3 Billion Enacted Relief Package; 3-13-20 National Emergency Action; 3-14-20 House Passed Legislation; 3-18-20 President Signed Package into Law.

- *Free Coronavirus Testing:* The House passed bipartisan legislation to provide Coronavirus testing for all patients with no cost sharing, including those without insurance.
- *Ensuring Access to Nutritious Food:* The House passed bipartisan legislation to strengthen nutrition programs for student meals, seniors, SNAP, and local food banks.
- *Emergency Screening Centers:* Deployment of the U.S. Public Health Service to set up mobile medical screening units to test Coronavirus patients.
- *FEMA Coordination:* The President's emergency declaration will provide for more coordination with FEMA on transportation, medical, and logistical support for communities.
- *Regulatory Relief at CDC and FDA:* This relief is being used to fast-track testing kits and potential treatments under development.
- *Medicaid Enhancements for States:* Provided states with a 6.2 percent Medicaid increase to assist low-income Americans, including seniors.

Proposed Action

- *Speed Testing to Market:* Provide additional regulatory relief at FDA and CDC for market-based testing solutions and essential supplies (e.g. testing kits, ventilators, PPEs, reagent supply, and hospital conversion).
- *Health Screenings:* Possible immunity for business owners who would like to conduct health screenings prior to service.
- *Food Security:* Additional funding for SNAP and EBT to allow families to continue to put food on the table during this uncertain time.
- *Education Regulatory Relief:* Testing waivers and other regulatory relief in the education space.
- *Childcare Enhancement:* Reflecting new work and school environment, enact childcare assistance policies and regulatory relief to provide childcare coverage during term of crisis.
- *Price Gouging:* Enact applicable measures to strictly enforce anti-price gouging measures.
- *Medical Personnel and Supplies:* Where available, deploy federal government excess medical personnel and equipment capacity, including military sources (e.g. vents), to affected areas needing service.
- *GI Benefits:* Correct the technical glitch, so that, during the this time of crisis, veterans can utilize GI benefits for online learning.

- *Participation and Open Debate Essential:* To whatever extent possible, as we take significant action solutions, we should strive for open debate and participation to achieve a final recorded vote on legislative action.

B. Stabilization of the Markets

- *Protecting Manipulation in the Market:* During the term of the crisis, regulations intended to prevent nefarious manipulation of the markets shall be strictly enforced.

Long-term Economic Stimulus and Job Creation

- A. **Infrastructure Investment:** Passage of a significant infrastructure package which would stimulate job growth and allow for borrowing at historically-low interest rates.
- B. **Best Practice Encouragement:** Utilize and encourage new business models based on global best practices following disasters.