



NANCY PELOSI
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

TALKING POINTS
FROM SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NANCY PELOSI
SPEAKER.GOV

March 25, 2020

Talking Points: Democrats Push Senate's Coronavirus Response Bill from Corporation-Focused to Workers-First

Democrats Secure Families & Workers-First Coronavirus Legislation Agreement

America is facing a grave health crisis with a serious impact on our economy.

The coronavirus bill that Senate Republicans put forward this weekend was a non-starter and put corporations first, not America's workers. It gave big corporations billions in taxpayer dollars with no real requirement to protect their workers' wages and benefits instead of CEO pay, stock buybacks and layoffs. It failed to provide meaningful support for Americans losing their jobs or hours.

Thanks to the unity and insistence of House and Senate Democrats, we have moved the Republican proposal from corporations-focused to workers-first, and **we have reached a compromise that takes us a long way down the road of meeting the needs of the American people.** While this bill does not go as far as our Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act, it has moved a great deal closer to America's workers.

Bold legislation is desperately needed to protect the health and well-being of the American people:

- **For fighting the coronavirus,** Democrats fought for and won a large investment in hospitals, health systems and state and local governments in this agreement, to give them the resources they desperately need during this emergency.
- **For our workers,** we secured a massive increase in Unemployment Insurance benefits to match the average paycheck of laid-off or furloughed workers.
- **For our small businesses,** we won a significant expansion of fast relief for small businesses and made rent, mortgage and utility costs eligible for SBA loan forgiveness.
- **For our students,** we secured billions in emergency education funding and eliminated income tax on student loan repayment assistance by an employer.
- **For accountability and oversight,** we prevented secret bailouts and added special oversight requirements.

House Democrats will now review the final provisions and legislative text of the agreement to determine a course of action. When finalized and passed, this coronavirus legislation will build on top of the swift action that House Democrats have already taken to move two critical pieces of coronavirus response legislation into law.

This content is provided
to you courtesy of



SMALL BUSINESS
INVESTOR ALLIANCE

www.SBIA.org

House Democrats took the first step, passing a bipartisan emergency response funding package of \$8.3 billion of entirely new funds, which the President has signed:

- **Commits more than \$3 billion to the development of treatments and a vaccine available to all**, and protects against price-gouging of medicines developed with taxpayer dollars.
- **Provides \$2.2 billion in prevention, preparedness and response measures**, including nearly a billion dollars to help state, local, tribal and territorial health systems.
- **Helps families by extending telemedicine services** regardless of where they live and supports small businesses, with billions in low-interest SBA loans to those affected.

We moved quickly to follow up by passing the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which the President also signed into law.

- **For families' health security:** this legislation ensures free coronavirus testing for everyone who needs a test, including the uninsured. Our legislation also increases funding for Medicaid to support local, state, tribal and territorial health systems, so that they have the resources needed to combat this public health emergency.
- **For families' economic security:** our bill provides two weeks of paid sick leave and up to three months of family and medical leave for eligible workers and enhances Unemployment Insurance. It also supports small businesses by fully reimbursing them for providing leave.
- **For families' food security:** our legislation strengthens nutrition initiatives including SNAP, student meals, seniors' meals and food banks.

The American people need and deserve a coordinated, fully-funded, whole-of-government response to keep them and their loved ones safe from the coronavirus epidemic. House Democrats will continue to work relentlessly and in a bipartisan way to put Families and Workers First and protect Americans' health, economic security and well-being.

###

This content is provided
to you courtesy of



SMALL BUSINESS
INVESTOR ALLIANCE

www.SBIA.org