

BIGOV Bill Summary: H.R. 6201, Coronavirus Aid Deal (Corrected)

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Individuals affected by the novel coronavirus could receive paid leave, food assistance and unemployment insurance would be expanded, and Medicaid funding to states would be increased under the House-passed version of H.R. 6201.

The measure would provide tax credits to employers to offset the costs of providing emergency sick leave. It also would require insurers, Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal health programs to fully cover testing and related services for the virus.

The measure would provide emergency funding for several nutrition programs, including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), as well as various federal health programs. The funds provided under the measure would be designated as emergency requirements and wouldn't count against the discretionary spending cap for fiscal 2020.

The measure represents an agreement between House Democrats and the White House, negotiated by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

President Donald Trump tweeted his support for the measure and said he directed the Labor and Treasury Departments to issue regulations "that will provide flexibility so that in no way will Small Businesses suffer."

The coronavirus, which causes a lung illness called Covid-19, has quickly spread worldwide since it emerged in Wuhan, China, in December. There were more than 5,000 cases in the U.S. and 43 deaths as of the afternoon of March 15.

Trump declared a national emergency March 13 over the outbreak and announced several initiatives including waiving student loan interest, purchasing large quantities of PPE, setting up drive-through testing, and authorizing NIH to waive certain hospital regulations.

The House plans to work on a third emergency response measure "to protect the health, economic security and well-being of the American people," Pelosi said in a March 13 deal colleague letter. The first coronavirus response measure (Public Law 116-523, see BIGOV Bill Summary), signed into law on March 6, provided about \$8 billion for immediate response efforts to the Health and Human Services Department, State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, and Small Business Administration.

WIC Funding & Health Care Provisions

Outlays: The measure would appropriate \$250 million for Health and Human Services Department programs that aid elderly Americans, divided as follows:

- \$200 million for home-delivered nutrition services
- \$50 million for congregate nutrition services that provide food in group settings, such as adult day care centers and meal sites.