



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2020

Tester Statement on Passage of More Than \$480 Billion Interim Coronavirus Relief Package for Montana Small Businesses and Hospitals

bipartisan deal includes \$370 billion for small businesses, \$100 billion for health care;

(Big Sandy, Mont.) – U.S. Senator Jon Tester today released the following statement on Senate passage of the more than \$480 billion interim package to shore up critical pandemic relief programs for Montana small businesses and health care workers:

"I'm supporting this bipartisan bill to get more resources to our small businesses and our brave nurses and doctors on the frontlines protecting our communities. We need to slow the spread of the virus while assisting the main driver businesses that are the backbone of our economy. I'll be holding the federal government accountable to ensure the resources we've provided today get readily to the folks that need them, and working to fix eligibility issues so more Montana small businesses can actually use the programs we've created for them."

Senator Mitch McConnell's initial legislation proposed only \$250 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, with no money for health care providers and workers. After bipartisan negotiations, today's package includes:

- \$370 billion for small-business relief, including \$210 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, \$90 billion for the [Economic Injury Disaster Loan program](#) through the Small Business Administration (SBA), and \$70 billion for the SBA's Emergency Economic Injury Grant Program.
 - Create a \$60 billion set-aside for Credit Unions and Community Financial Institutions for the Paycheck Protection Program, including \$30 billion for entities located in rural areas like Community Development Financial Institutions and the smallest community banks and credit unions.
- \$70 billion for hospitals and other providers.
- \$20 billion to establish a COVID-19 testing and contact tracing program.