March 23, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy, and Schumer:

As Congress takes action today to finalize “Phase 3” legislation responding to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the undersigned organizations, who are dedicated to protecting the health of children, families, and the most vulnerable in our nation, strongly urge Congress to move legislation forward that includes least $150 billion in direct aid to states for fiscal relief as they deploy their resources to address critical health needs and absorb the related economic crisis.

The United States is facing a public health emergency greater than any we have seen in several generations. Moreover, the virus and the necessary social distancing measures made necessary to cope with its spread are already having profound impacts on the economy. Many experts warn our country may experience a deep recession. Additional state fiscal relief funding is critically needed to address public health demands, give states financial resources to cover COVID-19 related needs, and help states absorb the economic impact of this crisis, including preventing major state budget cuts and massive layoffs in state and local government at the worst possible time.

We also urge Congress to act swiftly and in the near-future to enact an additional, emergency increase of 12 percent to Federal Medicaid matching funds. These dollars would provide essential support to states as health care services are sought by the tens-of-millions of children, parents, people with disabilities and seniors that rely on Medicaid for health care services.

Our requests are on behalf of the people of this nation and are not rooted in political ideology. That is why these urgent recommendations also were proposed and supported by the nation’s Governors on a bi-partisan basis.

Congress must take immediate action. Public health experts both within and outside of the federal government warn that the virus outbreak is likely to substantially worsen in the coming days and weeks. The downstream economic effects are only beginning to be felt. We implore Congress to act swiftly to address these priorities.

Sincerely,

[Families USA is currently gathering hundreds of signatures and will update this list on an ongoing basis. Last updated 3/23/20 4:30pm]
National Groups

Families USA
1,000 Days
AFSCME
American Art Therapy Association
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Autism Society of America
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Benefits Data Trust
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Public Representation
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Center for the Study of Social Policy
Children's Defense Fund
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment
Community Catalyst
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Faces & Voices of Recovery
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
First Focus Campaign for Children
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Health Care for America Now
Health Leads
Hemophilia Federation of America
Human Rights Campaign
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
LeadingAge
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
March of Dimes
Muscular Dystrophy Association
NAACP
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health (NARMH)
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Black Child Development Institute
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Consumers League
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Council of Gray Panthers Networks
National Council of Jewish Women
National Disability Rights Network
National Eating Disorders Association

2
National Employment Law Project
National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health
National Health Law Program
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Register of Health Service Psychologists
National Respite Coalition
National WIC Association
National Women’s Health Network
National Women’s Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Not Dead Yet
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Postpartum Support International
Power to Decide
Prevent Blindness
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Raising Women’s Voices for the Health Care We Need
RESULTS
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
SMART Recovery
Society for Public Health Education
Starr Commonwealth
Susan G. Komen
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
Treatment Communities of America
Triage Cancer
United Way Worldwide
Young Invincibles
Youth Villages

State Groups

Alabama
Vietnamese Initiative to Empower Communities

Alaska
Alaska Children's Trust

Arkansas
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families Sources, Inc

California
California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño
CRLA Foundation
Family Care Network, Inc.
Maternal and Child Health Access
VISION Y COMPROMISO
WestCoast Children's Clinic
Congress of California Seniors
Street Level Health Project

Colorado
Center for Health Progress
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
The Consortium

Connecticut
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Florida
Catalyst Miami Inc.
Farmworker’s Self-Help
Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy
Greater Tampa Bay Oral Health Coalition
North Florida Educational Development Corporation
Idaho
Idaho Oral Health Alliance

Illinois
Heartland Alliance
Illinois Association of Behavioral Health
Indivisible Illinois
Legal Council for Health Justice
Protect Our Care Illinois

Kentucky
Kentucky Voices for Health

Louisiana
Disability Rights Louisiana
Lawyer’s Reentry Consulting

Maryland
Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative

Massachusetts
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Michigan
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan League for Public Policy
TrueNorth Community Services

Minnesota
Let’s Smile, Inc.
Minnesota Oral Health Coalition

Mississippi
Mississippi Health Advocacy Program

Missouri
Empower Missouri

Nebraska
Children’s Hospital & Medical Center
Nebraska Appleseed

Nevada
Immunize Nevada

New Jersey
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
New Jersey Policy Perspective

New York
Families Together in New York State
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Inc.

North Carolina
Goldsboro Pediatrics, PA

Oklahoma
Oklahoma Policy Institute

Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Council of Churches

South Carolina
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Tennessee
League of Women Voters of Nashville
Tennessee Justice Center

Texas
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Children’s Defense Fund – Texas
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter
Texans Care for Children

Utah
Epilepsy Foundation Utah
Utah Health Policy Project
Voices for Utah Children

Virginia
Virginia Organizing
Washington
Arcora Foundation
Northwest Harvest
Surge Reproductive Justice
The Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

West Virginia
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Wisconsin
Community Development Authority
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice