



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

March 14, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United State Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Senator McConnell,

Earlier today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201). This package provides critical support to compliment many of the efforts that the State of New Hampshire has undertaken.

Provisions within H.R. 6201 include: free testing for COVID-19, paid emergency leave, enhancements to Unemployment Insurance, and strengthening food security initiatives. It also includes critical Medicaid funding to states. My administration has pledged to the people of New Hampshire that we will take all necessary steps to protect the public and this legislation will greatly expand and expedite our efforts.

Among other critical provisions, the legislation provides for:

- Would appropriate \$250 million for Health and Human Services Department programs that aid elderly Americans.
- \$500 million in emergency funding for the WIC program and \$400 million for the Commodity Assistance Program for the emergency food assistance program (TEFAP).
- Authorizing states to be eligible for a 6.2 percentage point increase in their federal medical assistance percentages (FMAP), which would have to provide coverage of coronavirus testing without cost sharing and meet other criteria. This includes not imposing more stringent eligibility standards or additional premiums.
- An emergency paid leave program to directly respond to the coronavirus. Private sector employers with fewer than 500 workers and government entities would have to provide as many as 12 weeks of job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
- \$60 million for the Veterans Affairs Department to protect our veterans.

The bill now awaits Senate action. My administration has worked closely and productively with our state's federal delegation and they are ready to take immediate action. I encourage you in the

strongest terms possible to bring the legislation to a vote and put it on President Trump's desk for signature as quickly as possible.

New Hampshire is ready to be good stewards of federal taxpayer support and we will use these resources efficiently and effectively to keep Granite Staters safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor