

April 22, 2020

Dear House Democrats,

We know you are working hard, want the best for your constituents, and are operating in an environment with asymmetric information. We know that this bill has been negotiated behind closed doors. And, like the last round of coronavirus relief, you likely are torn when thinking about your public stance on the bill before you.

This bill is more of a win for Mitch McConnell and Donald Trump than the American people. Once again, those who need help the most, including communities of color and immigrants who have been hit very hard by this crisis, are told to wait and Democrats are unnecessarily giving away leverage that people depend on you to use in order to save lives. Below is our rationale, but first a request regardless of how you vote.

**We call on all progressive House members to make clear now that you will oppose any bill in the next round that does not put the majority of focus on the People's agenda that Americans desperately need and expect from our elected leaders.**

To achieve this, we believe it's critical that the House go first and pass a Democratic bill early in the next round to set the terms of debate, maximize leverage, and honor all the voters who turned out in 2018 to elect a Democratic House.

This country is facing an unprecedented crisis. Our communities need Congress — and the Democrats who control the House — to fight for the People's Agenda. Put simply, it calls to:

- 1. Keep people on payrolls:** Stop mass layoffs and preserve employment relationships for all businesses, including small businesses. Ensure federal dollars go to workers and small businesses, not enriching CEOs and Wall Street.
- 2. Provide financial relief:** Expand aid for the most vulnerable, including direct cash assistance, increased food aid, debt relief, and eviction protections.
- 3. Protect public health:** Full health coverage for all COVID-19 care and protections for all frontline workers.
- 4. Defend elections:** Enact a vote-by-mail requirement for 2020 federal elections while maintaining access to in-person voting for those who do not have access to mail voting.

Democrats must ensure the next package provides relief to every person in this country, regardless of tax or immigration status, age or disability.

We absolutely want to support small businesses to make sure they can weather this disaster and keep their workers paid. But the small business loan program under Donald Trump and Steve Mnuchin is sending millions to Ruth's Chris Steak House while providing too little for many real small businesses around the country. And if we don't provide support for families --

and for local governments who will soon begin furloughing workers -- the small businesses that have managed to stay open will continue to shed customers.

Here's what we see when we review this bill:

- No money to secure our elections
- No protections or support for front line workers
- No inclusion of immigrants
- No sufficient measures to address racial disparities
- No additional economic support for workers and families
- No additional money for states and local governments
- No money for the USPS
- Nothing to make sure companies maintain payroll
- No cancellation of rent or mortgage payments
- No student debt relief or expansion of Social Security benefits during this crisis
- No new strings attached to money given to big corporations

Just as importantly as the inadequate policy provisions, this bill gives away Democratic leverage. What Republicans want most is more money for their corporate donors, which means now Democrats have less leverage for a future package. Mitch McConnell has already said he doesn't want to push through another bill, and if he does, it won't be for weeks.

We fought so hard to win back the House in 2018 — to make sure that we had a voice in negotiations like this. So far we've not seen the House enough of a collective push-back on negotiations for the agenda we really need.

The Senate has had its say on this round and it's a bad deal for American communities. The people's House should now use its power to make it better rather than rubber stamping Trump and McConnell's failed agenda.

We need better covid relief that prioritizes everyone. Regardless of how you vote on this bill, we call on you to make clear now that you call on the House to pass a Democratic bill and that you will vote no on COVID 4 if it doesn't center on a People's Agenda.

Thank you.

- Indivisible
- Social Security Works
- United We Dream
- Ultraviolet
- Friends of the Earth
- Women's March
- Demand Progress
- Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
- Center for Popular Democracy
- Mijente
- Demos
- Color Of Change

Black to the Future Action Fund  
People's Action  
Working Families Party  
Democracy for America  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
NextGen America  
Community Change Action  
Justice Democrats  
NextGen America  
Jobs With Justice