



July 2nd, 2020

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell

Dear Senator McConnell,

The struggles we face with the novel coronavirus are far from over. Glaring holes remain in the medical supply chain and testing infrastructure. Yet, the Trump Administration is scaling back its work to address the pandemic.

Centralized, federal leadership is necessary for the efficient purchase and transparent distribution of medical equipment, including personal protective equipment and testing resources.

State governments depend on the federal government for aid and assistance during times of national emergency. Just as importantly, without central coordination, states are being forced to compete against each other for critical supplies, which has led to skyrocketing prices and increased risk for health care workers and the public.

According to a [Washington Post-Ipsos poll](#), in early May, two-thirds of health care workers cited an insufficient supply of respirators, which are masks that filter out most airborne particles. And according to a [new analysis](#) published in the Lancet--one of the world's most prestigious medical journals -- those respirators offer far more protection for health care workers than a normal surgical mask.

This is all set against the backdrop of a [potential resurgence](#) of COVID-19 cases as states reopen across the country.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to support including the Medical Supply Transparency and Delivery Act in the next Senate coronavirus stimulus package, as the House recently did. The bill would:

- Create a central coordinator position to oversee federal purchasing and distribution of medical supplies. This person would have the full authority to utilize the Defense Production Act in order to compel companies to produce necessary medical equipment.
- Establish transparency and accountability in handling of the medical supply chain including:

- Public, weekly reports of current stockpiles of supplies and projected needs.
- Publicly posting states' requests for medical equipment and locations where supplies are distributed.

These measures are crucial to ensuring a steady, reliable supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing supplies for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. As the United States of America, we need to be united in protecting health care workers so that they can protect everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Wellington

*Public Health Campaigns Director, U.S. PIRG*

Val Griffeth, MD, PhD

*Co-Founder, Get Us PPE*

*\*The following groups endorse including the Medical Supply Transparency and Delivery Act in the next coronavirus stimulus package.*

*Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants (SEMPA)*

*Washington University Physicians*

*National Association of Certified Professional Midwives*

*Kentucky Public Health Association*

*Pennsylvania Public Health Association*

*Massachusetts Public Health Association*

*Illinois Public Health Association*

*North Carolina Public Health Association*

*Missouri College of Emergency Physicians*

*Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics*

*American Academy of Pediatrics, California*

*SEIU Healthcare Illinois*

*UFCW Local 7*

*Denver Health United Workers*

*Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers*

*Partnership for Better Health*

*Sheep Inc Health Care Center/NAFC/ FCAP*

*HAHC*

*Philadelphia Black Women's Health Alliance*

*Consumer Health Coalition*

*Maternity Care Coalition*

*Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action*

*Maine Radiologic Society*

*Consumers for Affordable Health Care*

*The Maine Society For Respiratory Care (MeSRC)*

*Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians*

*Health Care For All Massachusetts*

*IL Association of Area Agencies on Aging*

*Respiratory Health Association*

*AIDS Foundation Chicago*

*EverThrive Illinois*

*MSU UHP Dental Services*

*Montana Medical Student Association*

*Master's of Public Health Graduate Student Association*

*CU Anschutz Women's Health Interest Group*

*Orthopedic Surgery Interest Group*

*Sports Medicine Interest Group (CU Anschutz SOM)*

*University of Colorado Oncology Group*

*University of Colorado School of Medicine Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG)*

*American Medical Women's Association RVU*

*The University of Colorado School of Medicine SNMA chapter*

*The American Medical Women's Association*

*American Medical Women's Association at Colorado State University*

*AMWA CU Boulder*

*Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains*

*School Nurses Organization of Arizona*

*San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility*

*Healthy Days Pediatrics*

