

Republican Proposal Puts Corporations First – Leaves Workers and People Behind

The Republican proposal puts corporate interests over the American people. With large bailouts to the biggest companies but inadequate funds to address the public health threat on the ground or improve American's lives, this proposal is a non-starter.

Democrats support monetary payments to American families and assistance for small businesses—both will be welcome news across the nation. However, we need to provide assistance at all levels to help American families, workers, and their communities through this public health crisis. The American people cannot wait.

Here's what is NOT included in the Republican plan:

- **Nothing to help families – especially help for first responders and healthcare workers who are parents – address child care needs** at a time when schools, day care programs, and kindergartens are all closed. The proposal includes no funding for Head Start, and no funding for Child Care Development Block Grant and other social services that we know are desperately needed in communities across the country.
- **Little help for state and local governments** who are on the frontlines of addressing this crisis and whose resources are quickly being drained. Federal dollars from programs such as the Community Development Block Grant and those administered by the Economic Development Administration are desperately needed to help state and local governments address the needs of their communities, from serving senior citizens and the homeless, to helping local businesses face this challenge and downtowns stay afloat.
- **No funding for state and local first responders, healthcare workers, and law enforcement for the personal protective equipment they need** to keep them safe from the virus. All 50 states have made urgent requests for the Strategic National Stockpile's dwindling supply of masks, glove, equipment and medicines.
- **No support for underfunded state and local public health agencies and labs** responsible for containing the spread of the virus. Nor does the proposal support badly needed medical surge capacity, or the strengthening of the National Disaster Medical System, the Medicare Reserve Corps and the Ready Reserve to address with the health care workforce shortage
- **No assistance to address the needs of our homeless population.** With little or no access to healthcare, sanitation and safe shelter, the COVID-19 could spread quickly through our overcrowded homeless shelters and among those living on the streets, threatening lives and making it harder to contain the virus.

- **No funding for our nation’s veterans.** The proposal provides no funding to supply VA medical facilities with necessary equipment, or to address the increased costs of caring for our nation’s veterans as a result of COVID-19. It does not provide critical support services to help treat our homeless veterans, veterans in VA-run nursing homes, veterans who receive home-based primary care, or to support telehealth. We have a responsibility to adequately care for those men and women who faithfully served their country, and there is nothing in this proposal that will allow us to meet that responsibility.
- **No funding to help struggling Americans pay their rent or their mortgage** if they lose their jobs or have reduced income as a result of this pandemic. We must help families avoid eviction or foreclosure.
- **No additional funding for FEMA** to get immediate assistance to states dealing with this crisis.
- **No assistance for elementary and secondary schools** all of which are struggling to provide services and education to millions of students as their doors are shuttered. Schools need resources now if they are to quickly scale up programs to teach our nation’s children remotely, train their educators, and clean and sanitize buildings.
- **No assistance for higher education,** either for students or the educational institutions that serve them, at a time when they face unexpected closures and the challenges of moving classes online.
- **No funding to help tribal communities.** From housing to health care, these are some of our nation’s most vulnerable communities. We must put more resources into tribal hands help with the coronavirus response and its aftermath.
- **No assistance for public housing or housing for the elderly** whose demand for services will certainly rise at the same time as income levels fall.
- **No funding to help our nation’s airports or public transit systems** that are losing money each and every day as our nation shuts down and people stay home. **No assistance for Amtrak,** which provides critical services across this nation.
- **No funding for Department of Defense for buying personal protective equipment for medical workers, no Federal funding for National Guard deployments to support robust state responses to the crisis, no funding for deployment of hospital ships, and no funds to expand capacity of military hospitals and deployable medical units.**
- **No funding to assist American students, Peace Corps Volunteers, and other citizens stranded** in foreign countries that closed their borders.

- **No funding to assist Rural America to ensure food is accessible to all Americans by** assisting our farmers and ranchers to continue food distribution. No additional assistance for food banks or nutrition assistance for the nation's most vulnerable citizens.
- **No funding for to protect free and fair elections.** Election officials will have to drastically change how they are administering elections this year. They will have to rely on vote-by-mail and early voting and will need to keep polls open longer to avoid large crowds. This requires new equipment, additional staffing and supplies, and even the cost of postage. Cash-strapped state governments will not have the funding to do this on their own. The Federal government must step up and do its part to protect our elections and our democracy.

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