

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pence  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Vice President Pence:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, it is critical that states, local governments, and tribes have the resources they need to keep their residents safe and well-informed. We appreciate your cooperation securing nearly \$8 billion in emergency supplemental funding designed to get states the critical resources they need to respond to COVID-19. However, there are still many unmet needs and the situation continues to evolve. In particular, we write to draw your attention to a letter sent by Oregon Governor Kate Brown on March 11, 2020, and urge you to work with Congress and with Governor Brown to respond quickly and comprehensively to the Governor's requests.

As of today, Oregon has 21 cases and 220 individuals under monitoring. Last week, Governor Brown declared a state of emergency in Oregon in response to COVID-19. This declaration allows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to activate reserves of emergency volunteer health care professionals to assist local health authorities identify and contain new cases of COVID-19 in Oregon, and grants broad authority to OHA and the state's Office of Emergency Management to take immediate action and devote all available state resources towards containing the coronavirus in Oregon. The state of emergency will remain in effect for 60 days, but can be extended until the public health threat of the coronavirus is contained.

To address the growing needs and uplift requests still unmet from previous requests, Governor Brown wrote to you yesterday requesting several items to respond to the growing threat of COVID-19. We urge you to immediately consider this full request, including identifying where additional federal and state authorities are needed to provide additional funding for flexibility.

In particular, we would like to highlight the mention of previous requests for personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies from the strategic national stockpile and additional laboratory testing equipment. As Governor Brown mentions in her letter, on March 3, 2020, she sent a request to you for PPE supplies from the strategic national stockpile. She mentioned the need for the following resources: 600,000 surgical or procedural masks, 400,000 N-95 respirators, gowns and gloves, face shields or goggles, Tyvek suits, Biocell Ambulance Protection Systems (Biocell-APS), and 75-100 ventilators. According to Governor Brown, to date, the state has not received this request. We urge you to grant this request immediately.

Additionally, on March 10, the Oregon State Public Laboratory sent a request to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requesting additional testing kits. Specifically, the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory requested 96 boxes of collection swabs, 96 boxes of transport media, 27 boxes of extraction kits, and 15 boxes of TaqPath Master Mix. We ask that you consider and fulfill this request as soon as possible so Oregonians can get the tests they need.

As you continue to address COVID-19, work to mitigate its spread, and address the multi-faceted issues facing the American public, we urge you to work closely with Congress, states, local governments, and tribes to protect public health.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



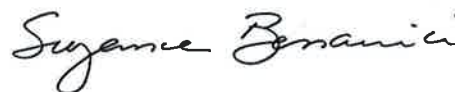
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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Peter A. DeFazio  
United States Representative



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Suzanne Bonamici  
United States Representative



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Earl Blumenauer  
United States Representative