

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 23, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to convey the still urgent need for federal resources in New Jersey. As you know, on March 19, New Jersey applied for an additional FEMA testing site. On March 27, we sent a letter supporting Governor Phil Murphy's application. We were disappointed that the Administration rejected New Jersey's request, and we urge your reconsideration given our urgent need. Additionally, this week Congress passed an interim coronavirus aid package that includes \$25 billion for coronavirus testing. This funding should be mobilized expeditiously to COVID-19 hotspots to increase testing capabilities immediately.

Greater federal support is necessary to ensure New Jersey's coronavirus (COVID-19) testing capabilities are able to adequately manage the large – and still growing – demand. Without additional resources, New Jersey is unable to further mitigate the spread of this disease nor move toward implementing serological testing in order to identify individuals who may have potential immunity to COVID-19. Finally, the most up-to-date testing results will help the Administration and our health care workforce best manage existing and future resources to most effectively combat this pandemic.

New Jersey's two drive-through centers have tested thousands of symptomatic residents and first responders. We are grateful for the federal investment at these sites and continue to believe a third FEMA testing site is needed in Southern New Jersey for residents who live over 50 miles away from the existing sites.

More must be done to ensure that all twenty-one counties in New Jersey have tests available for symptomatic individuals and front-line workers. As of this week, nearly fifty percent of tests conducted in New Jersey produce a positive result; 99,989 positive coronavirus cases have been identified in our state. Unfortunately, New Jersey medical and public health professionals believe this represents a fraction of individuals who have contracted the virus.

Without more widely available testing, we are unable to fully understand the prevalence of the disease across the state, especially in our more remote counties. A higher volume of testing kits along with greater utilization of mobile testing at community sites can improve accessibility across the state and help expand testing to asymptomatic residents.

Finally, New Jersey requires additional federal investments to enhance our COVID-19 surveillance and contact tracing capabilities. We join the Administration in the hopes that expanded serological tests can identify individuals with COVID-19 antibodies and potentially identify who may no longer be susceptible to infection.

The Administration can ensure that states like ours receive the resources necessary to expand testing and a return to normalcy. We appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
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