

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 22, 2020

The Honorable Peter Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Gaynor and Secretary Azar:

We write to request that four 250-bed Federal Medical Stations (FMS) be provided to New Jersey. As of March 22, 2020, the State is reporting 590 new positive test results, and the Statewide total is now 1,914, including 20 deaths.<sup>1</sup> This places New Jersey among the most impacted States in the country, along with New York, Washington, and California.<sup>2</sup> Numbers are sure to rise as the State expands testing and more individuals contract the disease via community spread. Initial predictive modeling indicates that, within one to two weeks, the State will be hitting capacity within our current licensed capacity for ICU/CCU.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “[m]anaged by the Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS), Federal Medical Stations are rapidly deployable caches containing beds, supplies, and medicines which can quickly turn a pre-identified building into a temporary medical shelter during a national emergency.”<sup>3</sup> Typically, an FMS can provide care for between 50-250 people for three days before needing a resupply.<sup>4</sup> Each FMS “has the ability to increase local healthcare capabilities in mass casualty incidents or potential public health threats. They are flexible, modular, scalable, and tailored to meet the requirements of each incident.”<sup>5</sup>

New Jersey is in immediate need of four FMS units. New Jersey has approximately 26,000 licensed hospital beds across the state, which includes 23,687 acute-care beds, 1,183 intensive-care beds, and 700 isolation beds.<sup>6</sup> To put this in perspective, epidemiological models from Rutgers University show that even “with a high level of social distancing, the total number of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2020/03/nj-coronavirus-cases-spike-to-1327-total-with-16-deaths-442-new-positive-tests-announced.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://covidtracking.com/data/>

<sup>3</sup> <ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/MCMTraining/FMS/FMS%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*; <https://www.politico.com/states/new-jersey/story/2020/03/16/national-guard-mobilized-closed-hospitals-prepped-as-fema-arrives-in-new-jersey-1267349>

confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Jersey could wind up in the neighborhood of 1.1 million".<sup>7</sup>  
We need immediate assistance from the federal government to prevent our hospital and healthcare system from being overwhelmed.

We understand the cost of each FMS to be approximately \$250,000 per unit<sup>8</sup>, making them an extremely efficient and cost-effective solution to the dire hospital bed shortage facing New Jersey. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator



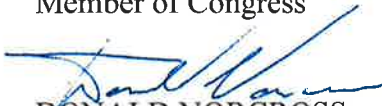
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Member of Congress



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN  
Member of Congress



TOM MALINOWSKI  
Member of Congress



DONALD NORCROSS  
Member of Congress

DONALD PAYNE JR.  
Member of Congress

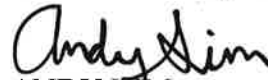
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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nj.com/coronavirus/2020/03/how-bad-will-the-coronavirus-get-in-nj-new-model-shows-potentially-devastating-numbers.html>

<sup>8</sup> <ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/MCMTraining/FMS/FMS%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>