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COVID-19 Legislative Update

October 6, 2020

Please see below for updates on legislation related to COVID-19. **As progress on another COVID package has stalled, again, this update will no longer be published until bipartisan negotiations resume.** For past updates, click [here](#). For updates before May 8, click [here](#). If you believe you have been accidentally unsubscribed, you can re-subscribe [here](#).

10.6.2020. COVID-19 Legislative Update

Legislation

Supplemental IV

Timeline/Policy/Process: In a [tweet](#) earlier today, **President Trump ended negotiations** on the COVID-19 supplemental, instead directing Majority Leader McConnell to focus on confirming Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. In the [thread](#), Trump asserted that after he is reelected, they will immediately pass “a major Stimulus Bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and Small Business.” Until today, the President had not been *directly* involved in negotiations. Speaker Pelosi issued a [Dear Colleague](#) this afternoon, calling Trump’s choice an “act of desperation”.

Up until today, Speaker Pelosi and Secretary Mnuchin seemed optimistic, or at least, more optimistic than they had been in the previous weeks. **Leader McConnell had originally asked committees for proposed changes to Heroes 2 by today**, though after the President and GOP senators tested positive for COVID-19 and others entered quarantine, it was unclear if that deadline would slip. Speaker Pelosi and Secretary Mnuchin had continued speaking over the weekend, though their **meetings and calls had remained focused on topline numbers and had not yet progressed to policy**. On a caucus call this afternoon, Speaker Pelosi indicated that funding for state, local, and tribal governments continued to be a sticking point. Last Friday, Speaker Pelosi [outlined](#) the largest sticking points between the two parties in a Dear Colleague. Senate Republicans had previously been skeptical of Secretary Mnuchin properly representing their interests in

House to get Senate Republicans on board.

Come Election Day, if Democrats take the Senate and the White House, Heroes 2 will likely be the first bill passed in the 117th Congress. If we see a status quo election, the pressure of the election will be removed, so talks may not restart immediately.

Airline Support: Speaker Pelosi announced last week that, in response to the recent furloughs airlines are making, she would be moving **a standalone bill that would include the airline provisions from Heroes 2**. Chairman Wicker and Sen. Collins [introduced](#) a similar bill in late September. It is unclear whether the House or Senate version would be the one to pass, as multiple Senators objected to the Wicker-Collins bill being passed by unanimous consent last week and the House bill does not include provisions Senate Republicans see as necessary.

Policy: It is unclear what the starting point will be come November if negotiations resume. Mnuchin's counteroffer from last week was something along the lines of the Problem Solvers' Caucus bipartisan bill (approx. \$1.5T). Highlights from Mnuchin's counteroffer below:

- \$250 billion for state, local, and tribal governments (\$186 billion less than what is in HEROES 2).
- \$400/week for unemployment insurance (retroactive from Sept. 12 – Jan 1).
- \$175 billion for health, including \$50 billion for vaccines and \$50 billion for providers.
- \$160 billion for a second round of PPP.
- \$150 billion for education.
- A second round of direct payments (\$1,200 for adults and \$500 for dependents).
- \$60 billion for rental and mortgage assistance.

- \$28 billion in student loan relief.
- \$25 billion for childcare.
- \$20 billion for farmers and ranchers.
- \$15 billion for broadband.
- \$13 billion to expand paid leave.
- Expanding the employee retention tax credit.
- Aid for restaurants, lodging, and entertainment venues.

HEROES 2: Last Monday, Democrats released an updated coronavirus package, HEROES 2. Text [here](#). One-pager [here](#). Section-by-section summary is [here](#). Additional information on the state and local relief provisions is [here](#). Highlights include:

- \$436 billion for **state, local, territorial and tribal governments** aid (\$238 billion to states, \$179 billion for local governments, \$9.5 billion to tribal governments, and \$9.5 billion to territorial governments).
- \$225 billion for **education**, including \$182 billion for grades K-12 and \$39 billion for colleges and universities.

- \$249 billion for HHS, including
 - \$9.2 billion for HRSA,
 - \$13.7 billion for CDC,
 - \$4.7 billion for NIH,
 - \$8.5 billion for SAMHSA,
 - \$21 billion for BARDA,
 - \$125 billion for provider relief fund.
- \$2.3 billion for the Indian Health Service.
- A second round of direct payments (\$1,200 for adults and \$500 for dependents).
- \$120 billion for a **restaurant stabilization fund**.
- \$28 billion in **airline payroll support**.
- Expanding the employee retention tax credit.
- \$57 billion to support childcare.
- \$4.5 billion for LIHEAP.
- \$1.7 billion for Head Start.
- \$50 billion for rental assistance.
- \$10 billion for SNAP and a 15 percent increase to maximum SNAP benefit.
- \$10 billion for Postal Service.
- \$3.6 billion for election grants to states.
- \$12 billion for broadband, including \$200 million for telemedicine and \$24 for broadband mapping.

Passed Legislation

Moving forward, this section will only include new information and guidance. For past information and guidance and passed legislation, please refer to the [archives](#). For a summary of all supplementals, please see [here](#).

New Implementation Information and Guidance

- There has been no new information and guidance since the previous update.

Members of Congress in Quarantine or Treatment (new additions in bold)

Tested Positive (4): Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT), **Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)**, **Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)**, **Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)**

Currently Self-Quarantined (5): **Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)**, **Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE)**, **Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)**, **Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)**, **Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA)**

Recovered (15): Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), Rep. Joe Cunningham (D-SC), Rep. Ben McAdams (D-UT), Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA), Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY), Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL), Rep. Tom Rice (R-SC), Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA), Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL), Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon (R-Puerto Rico at large), Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA)

Completed Quarantine (43): Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC)*, Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC),

(R-FL), Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO), Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA), Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Rep. Vincente Gonzalez (D-TX), Rep. Drew Ferguson (R-GA), Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ), Rep. Anthony Brindisi (D-NY), Rep. David Price (D-NC), Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO), Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY), Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Rep. Andy Kim (D-NJ), Rep. Kendra Horn (D-OK), Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT), Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA), Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ), Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX), Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX), Rep. Jody Hice (R-GA), Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

*Mark Meadows quarantined March 9 - 12 after coming in contact with a CPAC attendee who tested positive. On March 20, he resigned from his position in the House to become the White House Chief of Staff.



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