

Congress Must Prioritize People in COVID Relief Negotiations

Congress is back in session and Senate Republicans are expected to release their proposal for the next COVID-19 supplemental early this week. We imagine that the bill crafted by Senate



Republican leadership and the White House will be narrower in scope and less generous than the [Heroes Act](#), which was approved by the House of Representatives in May.

As negotiations begin in earnest, please do all you can to ensure that no one is left behind and that everyone is safe. As people of faith, we affirm the inherent dignity of every person and our duty as Christians to work for the common good of all God's people during this pandemic, while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable.

Contact your Senators and urge them to put people first as they negotiate the next COVID-19 Relief Bill.

The next relief package should include:

- Additional federal aid to states, cities, and towns to avoid layoffs and cuts to education, health and other vital services for those most in need;
- Access to benefits for immigrants and their families;
- An increase food assistance through SNAP;
- Help for millions behind in their rent or mortgage payments to avoid evictions and homelessness;
- Extended, expanded federal unemployment benefits for those who lost their jobs;
- A temporary increase in the Earned Income Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits to boost incomes of struggling workers and families;
- Expanded access to health coverage and funding to meet public health needs;
- Relief funding for child care so providers can open safely;
- Additional funding to ensure a successful enumeration unprecedented disruptions to 2020 Census operations and for safe, fair elections;
- Generous foreign assistance to help developing countries deal with the pandemic.

You will find additional background information on the need and the bill [HERE](#).

Please, take a few minutes to contact your Senators. You can call the Congressional Switchboard (202-224-3121) to be connected to both of your Senators or send them an email using your senators' [web contact forms](#).