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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4602

April 2, 2020

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

Dear President Trump,

As our nation continues to grapple with this ongoing pandemic, I reach out to respectfully request further assistance from your Administration in order to best serve our shared constituents.

Health care providers and first responders are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, and they desperately need additional medical supplies. My constituents who work at the Sheriff's Office and local hospitals have reached out to me, pleading for help, as they will soon run out of personal protective equipment. For example, Seniorcorp, a home care agency that employs 375 caregivers, is requesting at least 300 masks, 400 bottles of hand sanitizer, and 500 boxes of gloves to hold them over for the next few weeks. These supplies protect health care professionals from becoming infected, and proper disposal after use prevents them from spreading the virus to other patients. Doctors and nurses are doing their best to get through this medical emergency, but they will need ventilators, surgical masks, and other medical supplies to save lives.

In addition to my concerns for health care employees, other public servants are also in need of PPE. Correctional officers, law enforcement, and first responders are a few examples. Social distancing is not an option for these essential workers who are often at the front lines working with vulnerable populations that are more likely to suffer from chronic illnesses. Their work remains critical to the safety of the public and we must ensure they are equipped with the proper supplies.

I am appreciative of your Administration's attempts to procure personal protective equipment and other critical supplies for our health care workforce; however, states are competing with one another over these much-needed supplies, which is causing prices to rise at an unsustainable rate. For this reason, I implore you to get ahead of demand by fully utilizing the Defense Production Act.

As our nation continues to grapple with this on-going pandemic, I appreciate your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress