

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20528

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

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf and Secretary Azar:

We write regarding the need for supplies and equipment for the nation's essential childcare providers during our ongoing response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As you work to coordinate the federal response to this crisis, we request that you address the needs of these providers and the children and families they serve.

Amid these extraordinary circumstances, many organizations have stepped up to ensure the availability of childcare services for the families of health care workers, first responders, and other essential service workers on the front lines of this pandemic. In many cases, this response involves not only maintaining services at existing centers but also creating "pop-up" locations at hospitals and other locations where the demand for childcare services has increased due to school closures and other factors.

At a time when our communities are coming together to respond to these unprecedented challenges, it is vital we make the necessary resources available to protect frontline workers and prevent the spread of COVID-19. While we continue to hear about the urgent requests for supplies in our health care system, we also have heard from our constituents about the dire shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for our essential workforce, including those assisting with critical childcare services. These organizations have had to establish emergency protocols and procedures to keep their employees and volunteers as well as the children and families they serve safe and healthy.

Congress has recognized the importance of these childcare services during this ongoing pandemic, including by appropriating \$3.5 billion to the Child Care and Development Block Grant program through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and expanding opportunities for assistance through various Small Business Administration programs. While these additional funds will provide crucial assistance to essential childcare providers, federal agencies must also address their need for additional supplies like PPE. As such, we urge you to leverage the substantial funding appropriated by Congress and work with States to meet the requests for urgently needed supplies to address the COVID-19 pandemic and protect our childcare providers and the families they serve in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

We stand ready to work with you to support the needs of our communities. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Harley Rouda
Member of Congress

Don Bacon
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
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Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
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Cedric L. Richmond
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Max Rose
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C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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Eric Swalwell
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Peter Welch
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Susan Wild
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