

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

May 5, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Azar,

As we continue working together to protect the health and safety of our frontline healthcare workers and the patients they serve, we urge you to ensure targeted funding, testing, and PPE is being allocated to nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Nursing homes are facing tremendous strain on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic, managing the spread of the virus among their own residents and staff, providing regional surge capacity, and rehabilitating patients recovering from COVID-19. At the same time, nursing homes are facing staffing shortages and experiencing serious difficulties accessing personal protective equipment and testing supplies. Additionally, older adults are the most susceptible to COVID-19 infection and mortality, with people over the age of 65 accounting for 80 percent of all deaths associated with COVID-19, according to a recent report from the CDC.

Without robust and immediate support, nursing homes and long-term care facilities may be forced to close their doors. We cannot let this happen; we cannot let them fail.

As such, we urge you to allocate funding for nursing homes and long-term care facilities in the *CARES Act* Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, and increase access to testing and PPE for nursing homes and long-term care facilities in your COVID-19 Strategic Testing Plan, required under the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act*.

We must work together to ensure our long-term care providers are best equipped to turn the tide of new infections and continue saving lives and ensure the millions of older Americans and adults with disabilities that they serve are not forgotten.

Sincerely,

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Kendra Horn
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress