

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2020

Peter Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20472

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

Dear Administrator Gaynor and Secretary Azar:

We write to again bring your urgent attention to requests from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) for personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies. It has been four weeks since NH DHHS submitted its original request on March 11<sup>th</sup>, which requested additional materials and resources to meet the demand of the surge of coronavirus cases the state is experiencing.

New Hampshire health care providers, first responders and other entities desperately need these supplies to continue their work on the frontlines of our response to the novel coronavirus, or “COVID-19.” Shortages have grown critical for many supplies, including N95 respirator masks, nasal swabs, reagents, face shields and gowns. The state has also requested additional ventilators to meet the growing surge of COVID-19 cases at hospitals and care facilities.

While New Hampshire health care providers and first responders have received intermittent shipments to partially fulfill the request from NH DHHS, these shipments fall far short of the current need for critical equipment. With New Hampshire frontline organizations already reporting dire shortages of supplies to respond to the coronavirus, the state’s request must be met with a more substantial federal commitment of support.

Coronavirus cases and deaths in New Hampshire continue to rise. Local entities are doing everything they can to prepare themselves and respond to this crisis, including increasing statewide bed capacity and finding creative solutions to make more ventilators available. NH DHHS has been working to maintain its own stock of supplies for these local entities; however, it is depleted and cannot keep up with the current demand. Federal support is necessary to fill the existing gaps in protective equipment and supplies in New Hampshire.

We were encouraged that New Hampshire has received 70 percent of requested surgical masks. However, to date, your agencies have only provided 32 percent of the total requested N95 respirator masks, 27 percent of swabs requested, 5 percent of the requested gowns, 4 percent of the requested non-latex gloves and none of the requested ventilators. As you know, shipments have been complicated by deficiencies in the products provided and in the timeframes for the shipments. Supplies continue to be sent in a piecemeal fashion with inconsistent timelines and have included expired supplies and latex supplies that cannot be used in all medical settings due to allergies. While we understand the need to distribute PPE in areas with the greatest demand,

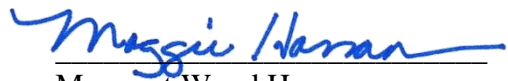
we find it unacceptable that New Hampshire has not been able to receive the equipment that our state needs.

Our state and our health care providers need assistance from this administration in order to respond to current cases and plan for future complications from the coronavirus outbreak. Please provide information on how your agencies will ensure that the needs of New Hampshire health care providers and first responders are met as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



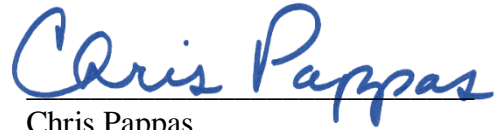
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress