

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

April 28, 2020

Dear Leader McConnell:

The Senate is currently scheduled to return to session on May 4th, 2020 to debate non-COVID related nominations. There is currently no scheduled legislative or committee business related to the COVID-19 public health and economic emergencies.

Pursuant to your decision to convene the Senate during the week of May 4th, despite the public health emergency in Washington, D.C., we respectfully urge you to have the Senate focus on COVID-19 related matters and oversight of all COVID-related legislation enacted by Congress. With respect to any Committee hearing, we also urge the Senate Leader to take strong actions to ensure the hearings are conducted in the safest environment possible, by requiring the Office of the Attending Physician to develop uniform standards on protecting the public health of Senators, employees, and witnesses for each Committee to follow, and charging the appropriate Senate support agency with assisting committees in implementing the guidance when necessary.

We believe the Senate should immediately consider next week:

- A public hearing with Administration officials and industry leaders and experts regarding our testing capabilities and capacity, and implementation of the requirement of zero out of pocket cost testing for all populations.
- A public hearing regarding the implementation of and access to the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program with the Small Business Administration Administrator Carranza.
- A public hearing regarding the implementation of and access to the Treasury and Federal Reserve's Lending Facilities with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chairman Powell.
- A public hearing regarding the best ways to protect the health and safety of our frontline workers with Administration officials and health and safety advocates.
- A public hearing regarding the implementation of the CARES Act's Unemployment Insurance provisions with Labor Secretary Scalia.
- Confirmation of appointees to the bipartisan Congressional Oversight Commission, including the chairperson.

In addition, there are scores of other issues that require oversight and public hearings in the coming days and weeks ahead. We believe each Committee in the Senate has an important oversight role to play in responding to the COVID-19 emergency. The Ranking Members of the Senate, in consultation with their committee members, will be requesting a series of oversight hearings as a follow-up to this letter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



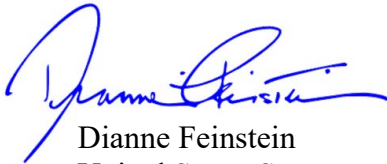
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



John Tester
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Mark Warner
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

CC:

Chairman Pat Roberts, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Chairman Richard Shelby, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Chairman James Inhofe, Senate Committee on Armed Services
Chairman Mike Crapo, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Chairman Michael Enzi, Senate Committee on Budget
Chairman Roger Wicker, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Chairman John Barrasso, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Chairman Chuck Grassley, Senate Committee on Finance
Chairman James Risch, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Chairman Lamar Alexander, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Chairman Ron Johnson, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Chairman John Hoeven, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Chairman Lindsey Graham, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Chairman Roy Blunt, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
Chairman James Lankford, Senate Select Committee on Ethics
Chairman Richard Burr, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Chairman Marco Rubio, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Chairwoman Susan Collins, Senate Special Committee on Aging
Chairman Jerry Moran, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs