

ACTION ALERT

Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

November 12, 2020

ISSUE: COVID RELIEF BILL:

We are moving into a dangerous time with regard to the coronavirus. U.S. confirmed cases are now in excess of ten million and the seven-day average number of new cases has been over 100,000 for much of the past week. Public health officials are warning of escalating cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the coming weeks. As the Senate meets in a lame duck session that began Nov. 9th, it is imperative that they make passage of a strong COVID relief package their top priority. These lawmakers, even those who are retiring or who lost their re-election bid, are still public servants and have a responsibility to their constituents. Early in the pandemic, Congress passed several COVID relief bills that provided critical assistance for families and small businesses. Most of these programs expired at the end of July. In May, the House passed a strong COVID bill that would extend assistance, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused to bring the legislation to the Senate floor for deliberation and a vote, instead choosing to use Senate time to confirm conservative judges to federal courts. Now that the Senate is back in session, the first order of business must be to call our Senators to accountability and demand that they pass a robust COVID relief package.

ACTION: Call Your Senators Today (202) 224-3121

Suggested script:

I am, _____, a person of faith/Sister of Charity/Seton Associate and your constituent who lives in _____. I believe that the role of government is to promote the common good, I strongly urge you during this lame duck session to pass a robust COVID relief package the magnitude of which matches the gravity of our current situation.

Even though the House passed a strong bipartisan COVID relief bill back in May, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has yet to act. This is unconscionable in the face of families and communities struggling under the burdens of the pandemic and its economic fallout.

The next COVID relief bill should provide assistance for:

- families struggling to afford food, shelter, healthcare and other basic needs;
- counties and municipalities, to enable them to maintain critical public services;
- and

- small businesses, so that they can keep their employees on the payroll.

Now is the time to act. Our families, communities and small businesses are suffering.
Can I count on the senator's support? Thank you!

PRAYER:

You shall not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that roams in darkness,
nor the plague that ravages at noon.
Ps 91:5-6

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus.
May those who are infected receive the proper treatment
and the comfort of your healing presence.
May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded
from the onslaught of the virus.
Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.
Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure,
that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and
health.
Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of
Lourdes, and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.