

NAACP

Washington Bureau



***THE FAMILIES FIRST
CORONAVIRUS
RESPONSE ACT
ACTION UPDATE /
URGENT ACTION
ALERT***

NAACP Washington Bureau
1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 915
Washington, DC 20005

Phone - 202-463-2940
washingtonbureau@naacpnet.org
naacp.org

ACTION UPDATE / URGENT ACTION ALERT

DATE: March 15, 2020

THE U.S. SENATE MUST PASS THE HOUSE-PASSED *FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT* UNCHANGED AND IMMEDIATELY

BILL IS THE FIRST RESPONSE TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY -- WE MUST CONTINUE TO ACT TO HELP THE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS ARE THREATENED

THE ISSUE:

Early in the morning of Saturday, March 14, 2020, the U.S. House passed, by a wide, bipartisan margin of 363 yeas to 40 nays, *the Families First Coronavirus Response Act* and sent the bill to the U.S. Senate for action. It is now up to the U.S. Senate to act swiftly and pass the legislation without change or amendment and send it to the President who has said he supports to bill and will sign it so that it becomes the law of the land.

Make no mistake, however, while this is a good initial response to the pandemic which is a very real threat to our national health and our economy, it is only the beginning. The U.S. Congress needs to continue to be responsive to the very real needs of the people -- all of the people -- of our nation.

Included in *the Families First Coronavirus Response Act* are provisions including free testing for everyone who needs it, and two weeks of paid sick leave to allow people with the virus to stay home from work and avoid infecting co-workers. It also includes enhanced jobless benefits, increased food aid for children, senior citizens and food banks, and higher funding for Medicaid benefits. By providing both emergency paid sick days and paid family and medical leave - which has long been an NAACP legislative priority - the bill recognizes that working people need to be able to stay home when they're sick, take care of themselves and their loved ones, and self-quarantine when needed without putting their pay, their job, or their economic survival at risk.

While this is a good first response, we must continue to call on Congress to remain vigilant and continue to act quickly to invest in health preparedness and worker safety to ensure public service workers have what they need to respond to this pandemic. We also need Congress to provide assistance for disabled individuals who have lost their primary source of care, and strongly urge more immediate financial support for small businesses, rather than through tax credits.

TAKE ACTION

Contact both your Senators and URGE THEM TO IMMEDIATELY PASS, WITHOUT AMENDMENT, THE *FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT* AND TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AS WE RESPOND TO THE PANDEMIC. To contact your Senators you may:

MAKE A PHONE CALL



Call your Senators and in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators' offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

SEND AN EMAIL



To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov and click on "Contact" under "Senators." You can look up your Senators by name or state; go to their web sites to send an e-mail.

WRITE A LETTER



To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

(Because of the urgency of the situation, please email or fax the letter!)

**SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!

THE MESSAGE

- *The Families First Coronavirus Response Act* is a good first response to a pandemic which threatens every Americans' way of life;
- Among other things, the bill contains paid family and medical leave, which enables working people to stay home when they or a loved one is sick;

Congress must remain active in this struggle and work to protect affected people as well as industries and businesses impacted by this pandemic.

SAMPLE LETTER

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUPPORT FOR SWIFT, UNAMENDED PASSAGE OF THE *FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT* AND FURTHER QUICK ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF ALL AMERICANS AS WE ARE FACED WITH THIS PANDEMIC

Dear Senator _____;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to do everything you can to see that the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* passes the Senate as soon as possible and without any changes or amendments so that it may be presented to the President as soon as possible for his signature. President Trump has said that he supports the bill and will sign it. It must be enacted quickly! It is a vital first step in the Federal response to this pandemic.

Included in the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* are provisions including free testing for everyone who needs it, and two weeks of paid sick leave to allow people with the virus to stay home from work and avoid infecting co-workers. It also includes enhanced jobless benefits, increased food aid for children, senior citizens and food banks, and higher funding for Medicaid benefits. By providing both emergency paid sick days and paid family and medical leave the bill recognizes that working people need to be able to stay home when they're sick, take care of themselves and their loved ones, and self-quarantine when needed without putting their pay, their job, or their economic survival at risk.

The *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* is an appropriate first response to the pandemic with which we are faced, but much more needs to be done. We need to make sure that public service workers and health care workers are protected, that we are adequately prepared for future, potentially more devastating pandemics, and that no American group suffers disproportionately - either health-wise or economically - from the current pandemic.

I look forward to your response regarding the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* and for the opportunity to work with you on future responses.

Sincerely,
(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact BOTH your Senators.

ACTION ALERT SIGN-UP

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Title _____

Address / P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Branch Name _____

Branch Address _____

STAY CONNECTED

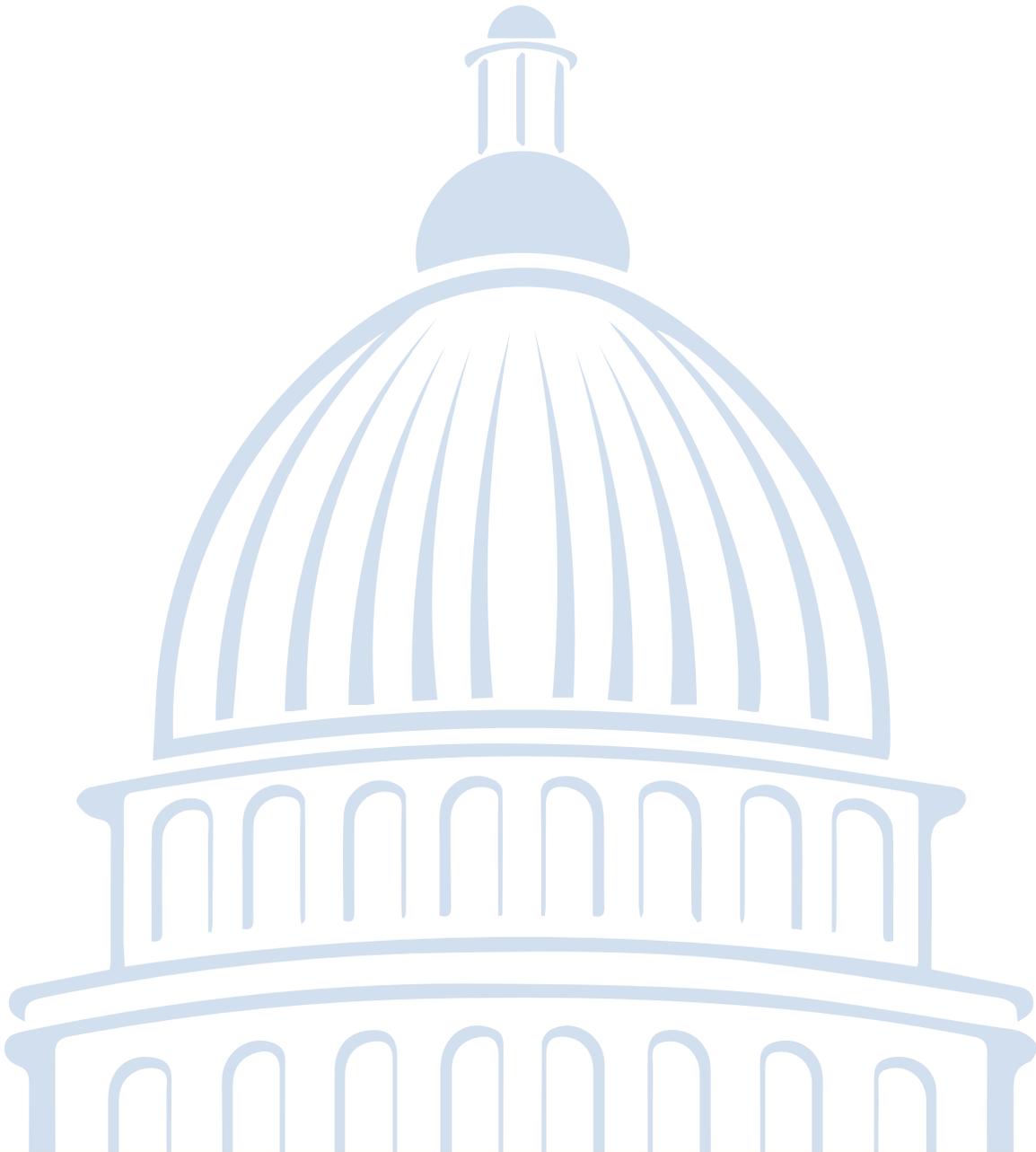


@NAACP



NAACP

Washington Bureau



NAACP Washington Bureau
1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 915
Washington, DC 20005

Phone - 202-463-2940
washingtonbureau@naacpnet.org
naacp.org