

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20472

March 27, 2020

Dear Administrator Gaynor,

As members of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation, we write in strong support of Governor Phil Murphy's request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a third 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) federally backed testing site in New Jersey.

As you know, federally resourced testing sites are provided critical and highly demanded resources by FEMA and the Department of Health and Human Services like testing kits and personal protective equipment. Only two federally backed testing sites are currently operational in New Jersey and both are located in the northern region of the state--one in Paramus, NJ at Bergen County Community College and the other in Holmdel, NJ at PNC Bank Arts Center.<sup>1</sup> It is our understanding that only individuals residing within 50 miles of each site are eligible to be tested. This leaves over one million New Jerseyans out of range from receiving a test at any federally resourced facility. This is particularly concerning given that as of March 26, New Jersey had the second highest number of cases of any state with over 6,000 positive cases.<sup>2</sup>

As you know, seniors are among the most vulnerable groups of people to COVID-19; approximately 8 out of 10 deaths reported in the U.S. occurred in adults aged 65 years and older.<sup>3</sup> The southern region of New Jersey has numerous townships which are among the localities with the highest percentage of seniors in the entire state.<sup>4</sup> Many of these townships are currently out of the 50-mile range of both testing facilities in the state.

For these reasons, we ask you for swift and fair consideration of Governor Murphy's request for

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.app.com/story/news/health/2020/03/16/coronavirus-nj-fema-testing-site-planned-pnc-bank-arts-center/5062551002/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications/older-adults.html>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.nj.gov/labor/lpa/pub/lmv/lmv\\_17.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/labor/lpa/pub/lmv/lmv_17.pdf)

a third federally backed testing site in New Jersey. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



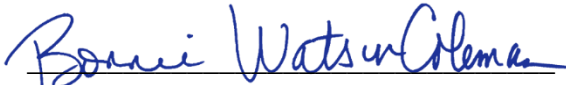
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



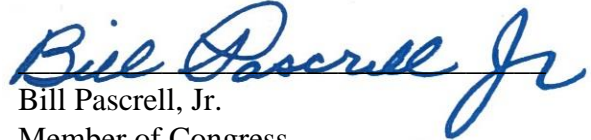
Bob Menendez  
United States Senator

/s/

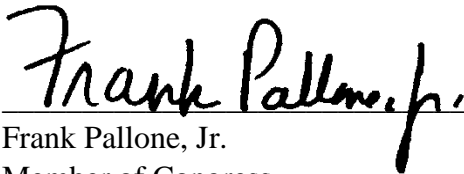
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



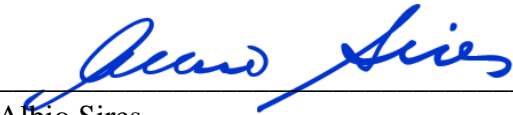
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

/s/

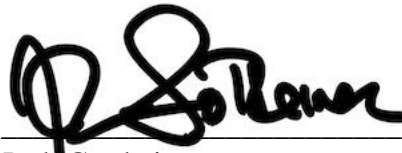
Donald Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

/s/

Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress