

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2020

Robert Kadlec, M.D., MTM&H, M.S.
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary Kadlec,

We write today in support of New Jersey's request for supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). We previously wrote to you about New Jersey's critical need for requested medical supplies. The previous distributions, while appreciated, do not come close to addressing the rising need in our state. As you know, New Jersey's positive COVID-19 cases are rising at a 37 percent growth rate, stressing the health care system in our state.

On March 4, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy requested a list of supplies from the SNS to ensure that New Jersey has the necessary medical equipment to support the state's COVID-19 response. On March 16, New Jersey received less than five percent of what was requested. In that timeframe, several states received 100 percent of their request. While we understand states are anticipating increased cases, the formula based on state population does not consider the increasing severity of this pandemic in certain states. New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation and its close proximity to New York means the rates of infection and medical need will be exponential.

Below is a list of supplies received and requested by the state:

- N95 Respirators: 169,155 (requested 4,500,000)
- Face/Surgical Masks: 402,959 (requested 864,000)
- Face Shields: 76,731 (requested 1,296,000)
- Surgical Gowns: 62,560 (requested 1,350,000)
- Coveralls: 320 (requested 864,000)
- Gloves: 222,755 (requested 2,225,000)
- Ventilators: 4 (requested 2,500)

Hospitals and providers have made pleas online asking for donations. We have heard reports of hospitals reusing N95 respirators intended for single use, which the Food and Drug Administration does not recommend. Emergency room physicians have scoured the internet for PPE. One hospital in the state was sold fraudulent PPE. This is not a tenable situation for our critical frontline responders.

While our Governor, Mayors, and County Executives are doing everything they can to limit exposure, New Jersey's positive cases continue to grow exponentially, increasing the stress on our hospitals and providers. We hope you will heed our calls and support New Jersey's request.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United State Senator



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherill
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress