

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2020

Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to approve Governor Phil Murphy's request for non-congregate sheltering to be reimbursed under Category B of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance program. Non-congregate sheltering is critical to ensure individuals who were exposed to, are symptomatic of, or have tested positive for COVID-19 can comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) isolation guidance. Swift approval of our state's request is an important step in our fight against COVID-19.

Essential workers on the front line, such as healthcare providers and emergency first responders, along with vulnerable populations like those experiencing homelessness, are at high risk of being infected with the coronavirus. To mitigate the spread and continue to flatten the curve, we need to take aggressive actions quarantining those who are likely infected and contagious. Our hospitals and health care system are stretched to capacity, and the state needs additional resources to maintain effective quarantining for non-hospitalized patients. Absent a non-congregate sheltering program, these individuals can strain needed hospital resources essential to saving lives and potentially expose others in their home to the dangers of this virus. It is essential to establish a non-congregate housing program in our state to free up hospital space and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

New Jersey has the second highest number of COVID cases in the nation and our infection rate has yet to peak. We need additional support from the federal government to reduce the strains on our hospital systems and save lives.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

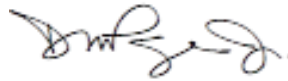


Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress

Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress