



SUMMARY OF FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT (HR 6201)

On March 6, President Donald Trump signed the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020* (P.L. 116-123), which provides \$8.3 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. Even as Congress worked to finalize this bill, it was widely understood that additional measures would be needed to mitigate the impact the COVID-19 response would have on American families.

To that end, on March 18, the President signed the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* (H.R. 6201). This bill includes a number of provisions to ensure Americans have access to testing and provide for basic needs during the pandemic. Below you will find a summary of the bill's provisions of most importance to mothers, infants and families. A full summary of the bill can be found [here](#). A summary of the bill's paid leave provision can be found [here](#).

It is expected that Congress will soon take up a third legislative package to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 and provide additional resources for the response. March of Dimes' Office of Government Affairs is actively advocating to include measures in the bill to support moms, babies and families. We continue to closely monitor the situation and will keep you updated on any developments. Please direct any questions about the legislation to Becky Abbott, Deputy Director of Federal Affairs for Public Health (rabbott@marchofdimes.org, 405.642.9391).

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

- **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** \$500 million to provide nutritious foods to low-income pregnant women and mothers with young children who face financial difficulties during the COVID-19 emergency. The bill also waives certain administrative requirements that would create barriers to serving WIC participants during the outbreak.
- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP):** \$400 million for local food banks to ensure low-income families have nutritious foods. Of the total, \$300 million is for the purchase of nutritious foods and \$100 million will support the storage and distribution of the foods.
- **Nutrition assistance to US territories:** \$100 million for the US Department of Agriculture to provide grants to Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to purchase nutritious foods.
- **SNAP program:** Modifies work and work training requirements for SNAP recipients until the official end of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Gives flexibility to states to provide emergency SNAP benefits to families impacted by the crisis.

LIMITING OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

- **Insured Individuals:** Requires private health plans, Medicaid, CHIP, TRICARE and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to cover with no cost-sharing services related to diagnostic testing the coronavirus, including urgent care or emergency department visits. Allows states to extend Medicaid to uninsured individuals for the purposes of coronavirus diagnostic testing. Provides additional funding to government-run health care systems to offset the costs of

diagnostic testing, including, the Indian Health Service (\$64 million), the Defense Health Program (\$82 million), and the Veterans Health Administration (\$60 million).

- **Uninsured individuals:** \$1 billion for Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to reimburse the costs of coronavirus diagnostic testing provided to those without insurance coverage.

SUPPORTING THE MEDICAID PROGRAM

- **Boosts federal contribution to state Medicaid programs:** Temporarily increases Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) 6.2 points for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- **Additional Medicaid funding for territories:** Increases Medicaid allotments for the territories in 2020 and 2021 to provide sufficient funding for increased FMAP.

PAID SICK LEAVE

The bill provides up to 12 weeks of paid leave for certain employees in certain cases that are outlined below. Provisions apply to employees of employers with *fewer than 500 employees* and *government employers*. The new requirements would expire on December 31, 2020.

- **Paid Sick Leave:** Provides two weeks of paid leave. Employees would receive their full pay to 1) comply with a quarantine requirement or recommendation or 2) seek diagnosis, preventive care, or treatment related to coronavirus. Employees would receive two-thirds of their regular pay to 1) care for a family member or 2) care for a child if schools are closed or childcare is not available.
- **Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act:** Provides up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave to 1) comply with a quarantine requirement or recommendation, 2) care for a family member who is under a quarantine, or 3) care for a child if schools are closed or childcare is not available. Employees will be paid two-thirds of their regular pay for the 10 weeks subsequent to the two weeks of paid sick leave outlined above.
- **Tax Credits for Certain Self-Employed Individuals:** Provides a refundable tax credit to self-insured individuals for leave that conforms with the requirements outlined above.
- **Funding new paid leave requirements:** Provides a refundable tax credit for employers to offset the costs to employers.

SUPPORT FOR LAID OFF WORKERS

- **Unemployment Insurance (UI):** \$1 billion in emergency grants to states to help process and pay UI benefits for workers impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. The bill requires the Secretary of Labor to provide technical assistance to states that want to help employers reduce hours instead laying off employees. The employees would be eligible for partial UI benefits to offset wages.