

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support working families through the coronavirus crisis. We were honored to take part in the historic passage of emergency paid leave for private sector employers under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. As the only industrialized nation without paid leave, that is a milestone of which we can all be proud.

In the weeks since the Families First's passage, however, it has become clear that further action must be taken to protect workers and their loved ones when it comes to paid leave.

Data has shown that due to loopholes in the Families First Act and further exemptions created by the Department of Labor's implementing regulations, only 17 percent of private sector workers would be guaranteed paid leave under the law.¹ That means up to 106 million Americans will be excluded from these protections. Of those, nearly nine million are health care workers and emergency responders who put themselves at risk every day caring for our communities.

We deeply appreciate your leadership in addressing these shortcomings by incorporating in the HEROES Act important provisions to ensure that families do not have to choose between their lives and livelihoods. We must do our part to keep them safe for the duration of the COVID-19 health crisis.

The next phase of the federal response to the coronavirus crisis is our chance to fix these gaps by clarifying Congressional intent and covering as many workers as possible for both paid sick days and family and medical leave. We encourage you to continue advocating on behalf of working families by securing these paid leave provisions in any final HEROES Act negotiations with the Senate. This is especially critical for our first responders, health care workers, and food industry employees, who deserve these basic protections if they or a loved one become sick amid this public health emergency.

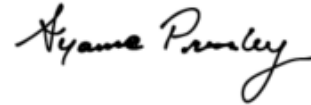
Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your strong leadership in this crisis.

¹ Coronavirus Paid Leave Exemptions Exclude Millions of Workers From Coverage; April 17, 2020; <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/economy/news/2020/04/17/483287/coronavirus-paid-leave-exemptions-exclude-millions-workers-coverage/>

Sincerely,



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

David Trone
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman, Education & Labor Committee
Cc: The Honorable Richie Neal, Chairman, Ways & Means Committee
Cc: The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
Appropriations Subcommittee