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House Democrats Introduce The Heroes Act

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Bold, Transformative Legislation Meets the Challenge of the Coronavirus Pandemic

House Democrats today introduced The Heroes Act, a bold and comprehensive coronavirus response bill that will meet the challenge this pandemic poses to our nation.

The more than \$3 trillion legislation protects the lives and livelihoods of the American people. Among its many provisions, the bill:

- **Honors our heroes**, by providing nearly \$1 trillion to state, local, territorial and tribal governments who desperately need funds to pay vital workers like first responders, health workers, and teachers who keep us safe and are in danger of losing their jobs
- **Establishes a Heroes' Fund for essential workers**, with \$200 billion to ensure that essential workers who have risked their lives working during the pandemic receive hazard pay
- **Supports testing, tracing and treatment**, by providing another \$75 billion for coronavirus testing, contact tracing and isolation measures, ensuring every American can access free coronavirus treatment, and supporting hospitals and providers
- **Provides additional direct payments**, cushioning the economic blow of the coronavirus crisis with a second round of more substantial economic impact payments of \$1,200 per family member, up to \$6,000 per household
- **Protects payrolls**, by enhancing the new employee retention tax credit that encourages employers to keep employees on payroll, allowing 60 million Americans to remain connected to their paychecks and benefits
- **Ensures worker safety**, by requiring OSHA to issue a strong, enforceable standard within seven days to require all workplaces to develop and implement infection control plans based on CDC expertise, and prevents employers from retaliating against workers who report infection control problems
- **Supports small businesses and nonprofits**, by strengthening the Payroll Protection Program to ensure that it reaches underserved communities, nonprofits of all sizes and types and responds flexibly to small businesses by providing \$10 billion for Covid-19 emergency grants through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program
- **Preserves health coverage**, by protecting Americans losing their employer-provided health insurance with COBRA subsidies to maintain their coverage and creating a special enrollment period in the ACA exchanges for uninsured Americans
- **Extends unemployment benefits**, ensuring weekly \$600 federal unemployment payments through next January, providing a vital safety net for the record number of Americans who are unemployed

- **Bolsters housing assistance**, helping struggling families afford a safe place to live with \$175 billion in new supports to assist renters and homeowners make monthly rent, mortgage and utility payments and other housing-related costs
- **Strengthens food security**, addressing rising hunger with a 15 percent increase to the maximum SNAP benefit and additional funding for nutrition programs that help families put food on the table
- **Safeguards our democracy**, with new resources to ensure safe elections, an accurate Census, and preserve the Postal Service

The Heroes Act was introduced by Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey (D-NY) and co-sponsored by Education and Labor Committee Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA), Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA), Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot L. Engel (D-NY), Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ), Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY), Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mark Takano (D-CA) and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal (D-MA).

The legislation follows the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (<https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/house-passes-interim-coronavirus-relief-bill>) enacted on April 24; the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (<https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/house-passes-third-coronavirus-relief-bill>), enacted on March 27; the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (<https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/house-passes-families-first-coronavirus-response-act>), enacted on March 18; and the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (<https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/house-passes-coronavirus-supplemental>) enacted on March 6.

The text of The Heroes Act, H.R. 6800, is here

(</sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/documents/Heroes%20Act%20Bill%20Text.pdf>). A one pager on the legislation is here (</sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/documents/Heroes%20Act%20One%20Pager.pdf>). A section-by-section summary is here

(</sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/documents/Heroes%20Act%20Summary.pdf>). A resource on the state and local relief provisions is here

(</sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/documents/Heroes%20Act%20State%20and%20Local%20Relief%20Funds.pdf>).

Information on state-by-state numbers from the state relief provisions is here

(</sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/documents/The%20Heroes%20Act%20-%20State%20and%20Territory%20Estimates.pdf>).

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