



STEPS CONGRESS IS TAKING TO COMBAT COVID-19

PHASE I: CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

On March 5, 2020, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) voted in favor and President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, which provides \$8.3 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations to assist in federal, state, and local efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus and prevent further outbreaks.

"This funding is significant and will equip our local communities, healthcare professionals, agencies, airlines, and everyone else with the support they need to ensure the health and safety of Texans and all Americans."
– Sen. Cruz

Specifically, this funding delivers:

- **Medical Research and Treatment Development:** Provides funding for several agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for medical research and the development of vaccines, therapeutics to treat COVID-19.
- **Support for State & Local Containment Efforts:** Provides \$950 million for state and local efforts to contain and treat COVID-19.
- **Relief for Small Businesses:** Allocates \$20 million for the Small Business Administration to support those job creators who are feeling the harsh economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Expands access to telehealth services:** Allows the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to waive certain requirements to ensure Medicare enrollees can receive care at home.

PHASE II: FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

On Tuesday, March 18, 2020, Sen. Cruz voted in favor and President Trump signed into law the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which provides immediate relief from the economic challenges millions of Americans are facing as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

"There is a vital role for the federal government to act in times of emergency and crisis... [This bill] will provide much-needed relief for the men and women in Texas who right now are hurting as a result of this outbreak, including waivers to allow schools to continue serving meals during temporary closure and greater access to COVID-19 testing."
– Sen. Cruz

Specifically, the legislation delivers:

- **Greater Access to COVID-19 testing:** Makes tests for COVID-19 more accurate and widely available.
- **Support for Food Banks and Schools Serving Meals:** Supports students and families most at risk with greater access to nutritious meals during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Emergency Paid Leave for Workers:** Helps ensure hardworking men and women will have a job to return to if they get sick or have to stay home to care for a sick loved one.
- **Policies to Address the Crisis:** Helps Americans overcome COVID-19 challenges, until this crisis comes to an end.

For more information and additional resources, visit www.cruz.senate.gov/coronavirus/