

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to strongly urge you to support increased resources for federal efforts to respond to the coronavirus and other pandemics as you finalize your Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget Proposal. Specifically, we urge you to support increased funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These investments will help improve infection and transmission tracking, prevention and vaccine development. Adequate resources for these federal efforts will be critically important in meeting the challenge of this developing pandemic.

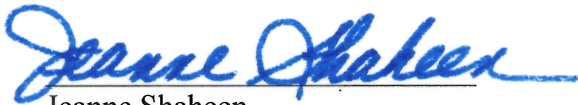
Granite Staters and Americans across the country are alarmed by recent news of the spread of the coronavirus, which now includes several confirmed cases in the United States. The World Health Organization (WHO) recently declared the coronavirus as a global health emergency and estimates that there are more than 10,000 cases worldwide. State health officials from New Hampshire have been working hand-in-hand with CDC and have expressed appreciation for the federal agency's efforts to spearhead our response to the coronavirus. These state health officials have reiterated that additional resources could allow for expansion of testing sites to more communities, which would enable a faster response to potential coronavirus cases. We will continue to work with your administration and state health officials to ensure that the public is provided with up-to-date information and guidance on the coronavirus and steps to take to avoid transmission, while also avoiding stoking fears or anxiety amongst our constituents.

While we are aware that CDC recently tapped into the Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund and that there are plans to re-direct more dollars into that fund, over the FY 2021 appropriations cycle it will be necessary to devote more resources to CDC and NIAID efforts. We are concerned that you called for significant reductions to CDC and NIAID funding in your FY 2020 budget. Specifically, your FY 2020 budget proposal requested a \$768.9 million cut in funding to NIAID, which amounts to a 13.9 percent reduction for an agency that plays a vital role in vaccine development. Your FY 2020 budget also called for a \$102.9 million reduction in funding for CDC's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, equivalent to a 16.8 percent cut. The FY 2020 budget proposal requested a \$68.1 million decrease in funding for CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, an 8.5 percent cut for the center. These two centers within CDC are responsible for much of the agency's response to pandemic threats like the coronavirus.

In December, Congress took action to pass bipartisan legislation that increased FY 2020 funding for the two centers within CDC, as well as an increase in funding for NIAID. For FY 2020, Congress provided a \$362.1 million increase in funding for NIAID, a 6.6 percent boost, as well as a \$10 million increase in funding for the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases and a \$5 million increase for the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. We need to build on these investments for FY 2021, either through the 2021 appropriations cycle or a supplemental funding mechanism, to ensure that CDC and NIAID are sufficiently equipped with funds to meet the challenge of responding to the coronavirus and other emerging pandemics.

In order to achieve these increased investments in vital programs, it will be important for Congress and your administration to come together and support these programs on bipartisan basis. We urge you to join us in this effort by requesting increased funds for the important programs outlined above as a part of your FY 2021 budget request.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress