



Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

March 21, 2020

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Leader Kevin McCarthy
Office of the Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

Thank you for your leadership amid the economic and emotional shock that our nation is currently facing as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As you develop the third legislative package to respond to this outbreak, I ask you to address the serious shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) threatening our health care systems and the need to lift restrictions for prescription drug refills.

Personal Protective Equipment

Our health care workers are on the frontlines of this COVID-19 fight and performing their duties in the face of increased personal risk and strain. The shortages of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are jeopardizing the lives and welfare of these brave workers and patients, and if left unresolved, this would have a ripple effect that can revert any containment attempts. Our government's failure to curtail any obstacles or delay in the procurement of PPE would significantly hamper our health care system's ability to respond to this crisis. As such, I urge you to include a provision to require the Food and Drug Administration to expedite any process associated with PPE procurement during this pandemic.

Prescription Drugs

It is necessary to ensure patients have the medications necessary for chronic illnesses to address their needs during this ever-intensifying coronavirus pandemic. Existing restrictions have limited patients from filling more than a 30-day supply of their necessary prescription drugs. As such, please consider lifting any and all restrictions or administrative barriers on pharmacists and patients for access to early medication refills, and where applicable, in accordance to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Opioid Treatment Program Guidance, during this public health crisis.

On behalf of my constituents in New York's Sixth congressional district, I am grateful for your attention to these priorities. I look forward to working with you to craft legislation that bolsters the health of all American families, especially members of our health care workforce. And I sincerely hope for the safety and wellbeing of you and your families.

Sincerely,

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Cc: Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr., House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Ranking Member Greg Walden, House Committee on Energy and Commerce