

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-222, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing today in support of the *Essential Worker Pandemic Compensation Act of 2020*. This important legislation introduced by Congresswoman Speier with Congressmen Neguse and Rose is a necessary step to protecting the families of our essential frontline workers. It will provide a much needed and deserved safety net to the families of the critical healthcare and essential workers who are victims of COVID-19 and we applaud them for its introduction.

As representatives of healthcare providers who are fighting on the front lines of this pandemic every day, we know firsthand the danger this pandemic represents to essential workers and the fear and uncertainty that burdens their families when one of these workers falls ill or dies as a result of COVID-19. While so many shelter in the safety of their homes, these courageous individuals don't have that option. Instead they are called to action, to go to work every day to help fight this pandemic, to provide critical care and help save the lives of those who fall ill, and to help keep our economy going, risking their own health and safety for the benefit of others.

These are trying times for all us, but these are especially difficult times for our healthcare and essential workers. Families are forced to be apart over fear that an essential worker in their family may become infected. Parents who work all day delivering care come home to find they can't even hug their child because of the dangers of spreading COVID. The President has compared the pandemic to a war, and our nation's healthcare and essential workers are on the frontlines. We cannot ask these workers to serve selflessly for us, to suffer the emotional and physical trauma that comes with being an essential worker on a daily basis without ensuring that we are there to support their families in their time of need. Any essential worker who dies or becomes critically ill from COVID should have their family's future protected, it's the least we can do for those who give so much.

We support the passage of the *Essential Worker Pandemic Compensation Act of 2020* and urge you to ensure its inclusion in future pandemic legislation. We owe it to our healthcare and other essential workers and their family and thank Congresswoman Speier with Congressmen Neguse and Rose for their important leadership on this issue.

Signed,

American Academy of PAs

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

American Chiropractic Association

American College of Nurse-Midwives

American Nurses Association

American Occupation Therapy Association

American Optometric Association

American Physical Therapy Association

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of Social Workers