



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2020

Dear Friends:

I wanted to make sure you had the latest information regarding my ongoing efforts to assist you and your towns during the global Coronavirus pandemic. Like you, I have been working around-the-clock to help our shared constituents during this difficult time for our community, including regular calls with residents, mayors and other state and federal officials, local businesses, hospitals, and our heroic first responders and front-line health care workers. **As ever, I'm focused on delivering immediate and essential federal assistance to Sussex and Warren Counties.**

I also wanted you to have accurate information about exactly how the bipartisan federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act has -- and will continue to -- benefit our communities in Sussex and Warren Counties. It builds on the first two bipartisan emergency packages that our entire New Jersey Congressional delegation supported. You may find these and other resources, for individuals and businesses, regularly updated on my website at <https://gottheimer.house.gov/coronavirus>, or by contacting me at coronavirusNJ5@mail.house.gov.

I recently wrote to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) asking that they establish a drive-through Coronavirus testing site to serve Sussex and Warren Counties, and I am working closely with officials in Sussex and Warren Counties to develop other immediate options for broader testing. The accurate detection and containment of the virus is our best chance to help flatten the curve and reduce the spread of the Coronavirus.

The bipartisan CARES Act rescue and relief package, which passed the House and President Trump signed into law last week, includes significant federal dollars and resources for residents and businesses in Warren and Sussex Counties. **Both Sussex and Warren qualify for hundreds of millions of dollars in direct relief and support for residents and businesses through direct financial payments, small business programs, unemployment assistance, funds for our hospitals, and protective equipment for our brave first responders and front-line health care workers.** It also helps our students and seniors who do not have enough food, and includes support for our schools.

The bipartisan CARES Act (P.L.116-136) includes the following critical assistance for Sussex and Warren Counties:

- 1) Direct, Financial Assistance to Americans:** \$1,200 for individual filers; \$2,400 for joint filers, with an additional \$500 cash per child (for individuals with \$75,000 income; \$150,000 per couple, and decreasing from there). I also [called on Congress](#) to take into account the higher cost of living in states like New Jersey.

- 2) **Expanded Unemployment Insurance Assistance:** The CARES Act includes a \$600 per week increase in unemployment insurance. For most Americans, that means 100 percent of their salary for thirteen weeks. I also [led a bipartisan group](#) calling for expanded unemployment and assistance not only to individuals, but also to small businesses, gig workers, independent contractors, and freelance workers.
- 3) **Critical Support for Small Businesses, including:**
- **Payment Protection Program (PPP) Loans** of up to \$10 million to help small businesses pay their rent, bills, and retain employees at their current base pay. Lending in New Jersey for this program started just yesterday. You may find a list of participating SBA Lenders in New Jersey by clicking [here](#).
 - **Economic Injury and Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Emergency Grant Program:** The Act expands eligibility for SBA economic injury disaster loans (EIDL), and provides an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private non-profits harmed by Coronavirus within 3 days of applying.
 - **Small Business Debt Relief Program:** The SBA will pay the principal and interest of current 7(a) small business loans for 6 months, as well as for new loans issued prior to September 27, 2020.
 - **Tax Credits to benefit employers and small businesses,** including an Employee Retention Tax Credit, advanced tax credits for paid leave, a delay of payment of employer payroll taxes, Net Operating Loss (NOL) Modifications to provide critical cash flow and liquidity during the Coronavirus emergency, and a \$454 billion Treasury Fund to extend loans to larger businesses.
- 4) **Support for States and Towns:** The bill establishes a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund. Under the legislation, New Jersey will receive an estimated \$3.4 billion in support for our state and local efforts to combat Coronavirus.
- I also joined a [bipartisan push](#) to ensure future Coronavirus economic rescue and revival packages include stabilization investment for smaller towns, counties, and localities, including many in Sussex, Warren, and Passaic Counties.
 - The bill additionally provides \$340 billion in emergency funding to combat the outbreak, which includes \$274 billion going to state and local governments for specific purposes.
- 5) **Support for First Responders, including, Fire and EMS:**
- \$45 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund to reimburse fire and EMS departments for expenses related to the response to the virus, including personal protective equipment;
 - \$100 million in funding through the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG/FIRE ACT) grant program, earmarked specifically for PPE and related supplies;
 - \$100 billion to reimburse healthcare providers, including EMS, for healthcare expenses or lost revenue and \$41 million for the National Forest System and Wildland Fire Management.

- 6) **Resources for Hospitals and Front-Line Health Care Workers:** The bill establishes a \$150 billion “Marshall Plan” for hospitals and health care providers most affected by Coronavirus.
- Provides funds for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for front-line health care workers, increased Coronavirus testing, new infrastructure to house patients and emergency operations centers for hospitals;
 - Provides additional funding for hospitals hit particularly hard, new investments in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) for supplies to combat the Coronavirus, and medical research into possible vaccine treatment.
- 7) **Resources for Schools and Food Security for Our Students:** The bill provides \$30.7 billion for an Education Stabilization Fund to help cover costs associated with the Coronavirus.
- Includes \$13.5 billion available for formula-grants to States to plan for long-term school closures and online learning;
 - Strengthens food security programs, including SNAP, student meals, seniors’ nutrition, and food banks. This allows our schools to continue providing meals to children who are out of school and food banks to provide meals to seniors who are homebound through programs like Meals on Wheels.

Yesterday, I joined with State Senator Steve Oroho in urging Governor Murphy to request additional federal discretionary resources for Sussex and Warren Counties ([here is our letter](#)). Because of long-standing, automatic federal formulas, Warren and Sussex Counties did not receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) under the current formulas. However, the State has additional discretionary funds from the federal government that it can deploy to assist Counties excluded under the formulas, and we’ve requested a portion of those dollars.

Along with many of my colleagues, earlier this week, I also [wrote](#) to the Speaker of the House asking that we amend these long-standing formulas in our next emergency package to address this particular issue. But again, in case there is any confusion, that is only one program of many in the \$2.2 trillion bipartisan CARES Act package. **The residents and businesses of Sussex and Warren Counties qualify to receive significant relief and rescue support, from direct financial assistance to small business grants.**

Earlier this month, I also [led a bipartisan NJ Delegation letter](#) to the President requesting additional support and PPEs for New Jersey’s EMS, fire fighters, and law enforcement, and [asked the IRS to extend the tax deadline 90 days](#) to help our families and businesses. I am glad that both the federal government and New Jersey have now extended the tax deadline for filing and payment until July 15, 2020. Separately, I [wrote a bipartisan letter](#) to the Small Business Administration asking them to include **farmers** in their emergency loan program.

These are trying times for our communities and shared constituents. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at josh.gottheimer@mail.house.gov if you have any questions. Now, more than ever, we need to come together, and work together, to ensure the health and safety of our communities. As I said in [this USA Today op-ed](#) earlier this week, that’s the only way we are going to beat the virus and help reopen America stronger than ever before.

Yours,



Josh Gottheimer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS