



Barbara Lee
CONGRESSWOMAN FOR THE 13TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act Summary

H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, is a \$484 billion aid package negotiated by congressional leaders and the administration. It passed the Senate on Tuesday, April 21, by Unanimous Consent, and passed the House Thursday, April 23.

The bill includes:

- \$310 billion in additional lending authority for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), with some funds set aside to support loans issued by smaller lenders.
- \$60 billion for separate disaster loans to small businesses.
- \$75 billion for hospitals.
- \$25 billion for virus testing.

The bill includes some fixes for problems that have arisen in previous relief bills. But many large challenges remain unaddressed by this bill.

Originally, Senate Republicans and the White House only wanted to proceed with an additional \$250 billion for the PPP, i.e. only money for businesses. Democrats had to fight to include other important priorities in the bill – particularly, additional funding and directives to support hospitals and testing.

Congresswoman Lee secured important language in the bill to ensure that HHS releases racial and ethnic data on who is being tested and treated for COVID, as well as language ensuring that testing funds will go to those communities most impacted by COVID.

But many important things were left out. Here's what I'm fighting for in the next package:

- Protect public health by expanding treatment, testing and contact tracing, guided by good data on which communities are hardest hit by COVID, and provide full health coverage for all COVID-19 care and protections for all frontline workers.
- Keep people on payrolls by stopping mass layoffs and preserve employment for all businesses. Ensure federal dollars go to workers and small businesses, not CEOs and Wall Street.
- Make sure that every action Congress takes strengthens racial and economic equity, and ensure everyone, regardless of tax, immigration status, age, disability status, is eligible for assistance;
- Expand aid for the most vulnerable, including direct cash assistance, increased food aid through SNAP, debt relief, and eviction protections.
- Ensure that the assistance we provide lasts the length of the crisis by designing programs to automatically renew monthly until the economy and public health return to pre-crisis levels.
- Defend elections by enacting a vote-by-mail requirement for 2020 federal elections while maintaining access to in-person voting for those who do not have access to mail voting.
- Support the postal workers who are providing a lifeline for people under quarantine.

That's why it's critical the House and Senate immediately begin work on a second large stimulus bill.