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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 11, 2020

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As Americans in my district and across the country continue to track the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), I commend your swift and decisive action last week to advance a bipartisan emergency funding bill that will bolster our local response and equip our communities with the resources they need to protect public health. This critical funding package will help reimburse our public health agencies and municipalities for preparedness and mitigation costs that have already been incurred, and provide robust funding to conduct research on potential coronavirus vaccines and treatment.

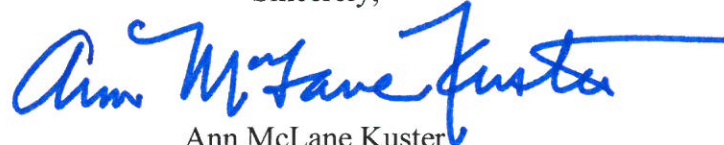
Throughout my conversations with New Hampshire public health officials and my constituents, it is evident that additional steps must be taken to support workers who lack access to paid sick leave. While some companies have taken recent steps to expand paid sick leave benefits to employees stricken with coronavirus, the fact remains that the United States does not guarantee access to paid sick leave for American workers. This dramatically complicates our ability to respond to the coronavirus outbreak and leaves millions of hard-working Americans with the decision to either take care of their health or keep their paycheck.

To that end, I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 6150, *The Paid Sick Days for Public Health Emergencies and Personal and Family Care Act*, sponsored by my colleague Rep. Rosa DeLauro, which would provide paid sick days immediately to workers in light of the coronavirus outbreak and in preparation for future public health emergencies. I support this legislation and urge its consideration. In addition to expanding access to paid sick leave for American workers, Congress should consider efforts to enhance unemployment insurance for those who may lose their job from the broader economic impacts of the coronavirus, and ensure that our Federal safety net programs can effectively respond to the rapid pace of this outbreak.

Furthermore, it is prudent for Congress to consider legislation that will ensure Americans have access to free testing for the coronavirus. For those that lack access to quality health coverage, the potential cost of a medical visit and subsequent testing can be a deterrent for receiving appropriate medical care. Congress can provide peace of mind to Americans by ensuring they can receive testing with no costs incurred.

Thank you for your continued leadership and thoughtful approach to mitigating the spread of the coronavirus. I look forward to working in partnership with all our colleagues to protect the health and well-being of the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann McLane Kuster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress