



JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Sent by email

Dear Senator Schumer,

On behalf of 125 local Jewish community relations councils across the country and 17 national organizations, JCPA is writing to urge you to protect the most vulnerable from the impacts of COVID-19 as part of the third stimulus package and beyond. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc, disrupting lives and fueling anxiety, we count on you to act swiftly, with care and compassion, to address the pandemic and its economic repercussions on people's lives.

Judaism instructs us to prioritize individuals most in need and enable all people to live with dignity and the opportunity to flourish. Love of neighbor and care for those in poverty must be the hallmark of Congressional efforts to stem this health emergency and any related economic downturn.

The President recently signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. We applaud the President and Congress for working in a bipartisan manner to quickly pass the initial response packages. We also know that more needs to be done. As you develop yet a third legislative package responding to the Coronavirus pandemic, we call on you again to prioritize the needs of people who are vulnerable, including those economically at risk and their families.

To this end, Congress should follow these principles in any legislation that addresses the COVID-19 crisis:

- Ensure accessible and affordable testing and treatment for the Coronavirus, regardless of income, location, disability, or immigration status.
- Ensure all have the support they need to take sick leave and care for family members without risking their jobs or their paychecks.
- Ensure low-income workers and individuals who are economically at risk have the assistance they need to put food on the table and provide for their families.
- Give special care and attention to individuals at increased risk of infection, including individuals in prison, immigrants and children in detention, in long-term care facilities, and those that are homeless.
- Economic stimulus measures should focus first on low-income and vulnerable communities. Such interventions also have the strongest economic impact. Any bailouts and emergency assistance for major industries and businesses must be paired with comparable assistance for economically at-risk workers and vulnerable individuals.

Time is of the essence. Our network of Jewish community organizations are working to help the most vulnerable in our society and support the most needy within the Jewish community. We are here as a resource for you and wish you success, safety and health during these challenging times.

If you need any further information please contact Melanie Roth Gorelick at MGorelick@thejcpa.org or 917-331-4428. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely



Michael Fromm
JCPA Chair



David Bernstein
JCPA President and CEO