



March 30, 2020

To Constituents of the 30th Congressional District of Texas,

Please see below for an overview of the three stimulus bills passed into law so far to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. My office is actively monitoring this public health emergency on the local, state, and federal level, and this information will be continuously updated as the situation develops.

Please refer to these local, state, and federal resources at <https://ebjohnson.house.gov/coronavirus> for assistance in these unprecedented times. As always, please call my Dallas office at (214) 922-8885 with any questions.

Stimulus Package #1 - The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act

- Passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 4, passed in the Senate on March 5, and signed into law by President Trump on March 6, 2020
- Contains over \$8.3 billion in new federal funding available for government health agencies, research, and purchases of vaccines and medications to specifically address the coronavirus emergency
- Notable provisions include:
 - o Over \$3 billion for research and development into drug treatments, testing and an eventual vaccine, including funds to purchase vaccines and medications that would have to comply with federal contracting rules on pricing;
 - o \$3.2 billion to help public health agencies contain and treat the disease, including almost \$1 billion to buy medical supplies;
 - o \$1.25 billion for overseas assistance efforts; and
 - o Waiver of Medicare telehealth restrictions for the coronavirus emergency, so that telehealth services will be covered by Medicare regardless of where the beneficiary is located

Stimulus Package #2 - The Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- Passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 14, passed in the Senate on March 18, and signed into law by President Trump on March 18, 2020
- Contains over \$100 billion in new federal funding for targeted economic relief to respond to the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the economy
- Notable provisions include:
 - o Expanded paid sick and family leave, free coronavirus testing, expanded food assistance and unemployment benefits, and the requirement of employers to provide additional protections for health care workers
 - o Funding to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for nutrition and food assistance programs:
 - the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);

- the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); and
 - nutrition assistance grants for U.S. territories
- Funding to the Department of Health and Human Services for nutrition programs specifically to assist the elderly
- Modified USDA food assistance and nutrition programs to
 - allow certain waivers to requirements for the school meal programs,
 - suspend work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and
 - allow states to request waivers to provide certain emergency SNAP benefits
- Requirement of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an emergency temporary standard that requires certain employers to develop and implement a comprehensive infectious disease exposure control plan to protect health care workers
- Additional provisions include:
 - the establishment of a federal emergency paid leave benefits program to provide payments to employees taking unpaid leave due to the coronavirus outbreak,
 - expanded unemployment benefits and grants to states for processing and paying claims,
 - the requirement of employers to provide paid sick leave to employees,
 - tax credits for employers who provide paid sick leave and/or paid family leave to offset costs
 - the establishment of requirements for coronavirus diagnostic testing at no cost to consumers,
 - the treatment of personal respiratory protective devices as covered countermeasures eligible for certain liability protections, and
 - a temporary increase of the Medicaid federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP)

Stimulus Package #3 - The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

- Passed in the Senate on March 25, passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 27, and signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020
- Contains an additional \$2 trillion in federal funding for targeted economic relief
- Notable provisions include:
 - One-time payment of \$1,200 to individuals making up to \$75,000 per year, or \$2,400 for couples earning less than \$150,000
 - It also provides an additional \$500 per child
 - For incomes above \$75,000 per year, payment is scaled down until it reaches a \$99,000 income threshold for an individual, or \$198,000 for a couple and then phased out altogether
 - \$260 billion investment in Unemployment Insurance benefits to match the average paycheck of laid-off or furloughed workers. Included is an additional 13 weeks of federally funded benefits available immediately, and the maximum unemployment benefit is increased by \$600 per week
 - More than \$30 billion in emergency education funding and eliminated income tax on student loan repayment assistance by an employer. Also, deferment of payments and interest accrual for federally owned student loans for six months through September 30, 2020
 - \$200 billion investment in hospitals, health systems and health research, and \$150 billion for state and local governments, to provide desperately needed resources
 - Requirement for health insurance companies to pay for coronavirus testing and increased funding of \$1.32 billion for community health centers
 - \$377 billion infusion of fast relief for small businesses to assist with payroll, rent, mortgage, and utility payments, which are now eligible for SBA loan forgiveness
 - \$2 billion in emergency homelessness assistance through Emergency Solutions Grants