

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

We write to you today to respectfully request strong consideration of the inclusion of hazard pay for all essential workers in any upcoming emergency relief packages approved by the Congress. As our nation battles the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, our communities are surviving thanks to the work of countless Americans who continue to perform their essential jobs as they care for the sick, stock our grocery stores, maintain sanitation, complete construction projects, and innumerable other critical occupations. As you know, these workers often receive some of the lowest wages in the nation, even as they work tirelessly to keep our communities healthy and safe during this public health emergency.

For the foregoing reasons, we believe it is critically important for Congress to include hazard pay for essential workers in the next emergency relief package. In particular, we recommend that such hazard pay provisions apply to all healthcare workers currently practicing, including independent contractors, direct employees, those professionals practicing in the private sector, and the many health workers employed in our public health departments and laboratories. We believe that, in addition, such legislation should include physical therapists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, and home care workers. And finally, we request strong consideration for all essential workers, including, for example, transit workers, grocery store workers, and so many others who continue to serve our communities during this pandemic. In short, every essential employee that is asked to leave their home, thus subjecting themselves to risk of exposure to COVID-19, should receive compensation that reflects the risks associated with that work.

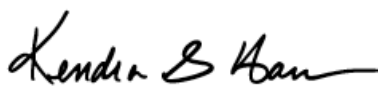
We recently introduced H.R. 6484, the *Hazard Pay for the Frontlines During Health Emergencies Act*, which creates a framework of an additional 25 percent of an employee's salary as hazard pay during public emergencies, such as the one we face now, and includes 100 percent federal reimbursement for these expenses. As you work to create further relief packages for our country, we hope you will consider this model for each worker deemed essential during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Kendra Horn
Member of Congress