



RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended everyone's lives, infecting millions of people and killing more than 150,000 people in the United States. Millions more are facing economic uncertainty as businesses lay off workers and cut hours or close down completely. COVID-19 has impacted every part of our society and the Judiciary Committee has worked with our partners on other committees and congressional leadership to address the impact of COVID-19 in a variety of ways.

The bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed into law on March 27th, included critical provisions of importance to the Committee. These provisions included funding to ensure voters can safely vote in the 2020 federal election cycle; funding to ensure access to justice; funding to protect the health of individuals who are incarcerated and other related provisions; bankruptcy protections for consumers and small businesses; provisions to ensure that independent contractors, gig workers, and freelancers qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans; and regulatory flexibility for the agencies responsible for administering the intellectual property system.

In May, the House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act to build upon the success of the CARES Act and aid Americans during this challenging time. The bill included many priorities for the Judiciary Committee, including funding for testing, treatment, and prevention of COVID-19 in prisons and jails; provisions to ensure first responders who die or become disabled during the pandemic receive the benefits they are owed; additional funding for the Violence Against Women Act to address the surge in domestic violence; funding for Legal Aid and local law enforcement; a ban on price gouging; protections for immigrants serving in essential critical infrastructure sectors; and bankruptcy protections for homeowners, among other provisions.

The Committee has also been engaged in oversight of the executive branch, demanding that the administration address the spread of COVID-19 in federal prisons and in immigration detention facilities among prisoners, migrants, and staff; prohibit price gouging; and address the spread of ghost guns during the pandemic.

COMMITTEE WORK

H.R. 6509, the “Public Safety Officer Pandemic Response Act of 2020”/ S. 3607, the “Safeguarding America’s First Responders Act of 2020” [Passed House, LAW]*

H.R. 6414, the “COVID-19 Correctional Facility Emergency Response Act of 2020” [Passed House]*

H.R. 6400, the “Emergency Community Supervision Act” [Passed House]*

H.R. 5546, the “Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act” [Marked Up, Passed House]*

H.R. 3545, the “National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality (NO HATE) Act of 2019” [Passed

House]*

Roundtable: Democratic Virtual Roundtable on ICE’s Response to COVID-19

Roundtable: Democratic Virtual Roundtable on COVID-19 in Prisons & Jails

Hearing: Protecting the Right to Vote During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Hearing: Federal Courts During the Covid-19 Pandemic: Best Practices, Opportunities for Innovation, and Lessons for the Future

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE ON COVID-19 IN PRISONS & JAILS



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