



March 12, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to offer strong support for the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, H.R. 6201. We sincerely hope that the House and Senate will quickly reconcile and pass this legislation to provide free testing for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), paid sick leave, and protection for the physicians and other healthcare professionals from the COVID-19 so that they can continue to treat their patients. We applaud your leadership and quick action in building upon the funding and policies already enacted in the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020, H.R. 6074, since COVID-19 now represents a severe public health emergency. We also greatly appreciate that you included in H.R. 6201 several policies that ACP previously [recommended](#), including free testing and steps to expand coverage to vulnerable populations.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 159,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

ACP supports several provisions in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, H.R. 6201, including:

- **COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS).** ACP supports the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requiring healthcare employers to develop an ETS for to implement a detailed infectious disease exposure control plan. Physicians and other healthcare professionals need both the equipment and the guidance in place to prevent SARS-CoV-2 exposure so they can continue to treat patients with COVID-19.
- **Emergency Paid Leave Benefits.** ACP supports the establishment of a federal emergency paid leave benefits program when individuals are unable to work due COVID-19.
- **Paid Sick Days for Public Health Emergencies.** ACP supports requiring employers to provide seven days of accrued sick leave with an additional 14 days available during a public health emergency, such as COVID-19.
- **Coverage of Testing for COVID-19.** ACP strongly supports requiring all private health plans to provide coverage for COVID-19 diagnostic testing.

- **Waiving of cost sharing under Medicare, Medicare Advantage (MA), Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.** ACP supports the waiving of cost sharing for COVID-19 tests under these programs, including a provider visit under Medicare, MA plans, Medicaid.
- **Extend Medicaid eligibility to uninsured populations for the purposes of COVID-19 diagnostic testing.** ACP supports allowing states the option to include Medicaid eligibility for the uninsured to provide COVID-19 testing.
- **Laboratory Reimbursement for Diagnostic Testing for COVID-19 in Uninsured Individuals.** For uninsured individuals it is imperative that they have access to diagnostic testing. ACP supports requiring the National Disaster Medical System to reimburse COVID-19 testing costs for the uninsured.
- **Emergency Federal Matching Assisting Percentage (FMAP) Increase for Medicaid.** ACP supports the federal government paying the full state share (i.e., 100% FMAP) as it did for as it did for Medicaid coverage for Hurricane Katrina-displaced individuals.

We commend you for bringing H.R. 6201 to the House floor in such a timely fashion and believe its passage is necessary due to the seriousness of this public health threat caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and many of our patients having COVID-19 as a result. We stand ready to work with you as you continue to work to get legislation passed to formulate the federal government’s continued and comprehensive response to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. McLean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert M. McLean, MD, MACP
President