

Protect Our Heroes Act of 2020

Our nation's health care workers continue to protect and serve patients and communities during COVID-19 pandemic reaches new heights across the country. However, this Administration has failed to equip our health care heroes with the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) they need to do their jobs and save lives. We must ensure that those fighting on the frontlines have enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect themselves, their patients, their communities and their families from this deadly disease. Therefore, we propose the Protect Our Heroes Act that will:

- Provide \$10 billion in funding for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to purchase large quantities of designated PPE, including N-95 respirators, gloves, gowns, face shields, and surgical masks.
- Invoke the Defense Production Act (DPA) and other existing authorities to expand the industrial capacity of domestic PPE production, while requiring the Comptroller General of the United States to develop recommendations on further using these authorities.
- Create a \$1 billion grant program to help small businesses retool domestic facilities to produce critical PPE, with priority given to minority-owned and other underserved small businesses as well as those owned by service disabled veterans with considerations for other veteran-owned small businesses. This proposal also prioritizes small businesses that receive grants through this program when reviewing purchasing order decisions for the SNS,
- Require the federal government to release regular reports on the critical supplies needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic, including an assessment of the SNS and other stockpiles, direction for bolstering domestic manufacturing to provide critical supplies, plans to meet forecasted needs to combat the virus, a review of the PPE supply chain, and a detailed explanations of the authorities used under the DPA and other authorities to purchase PPE for the SNS.
- Mandate an annual Government Accountability Office report on the country's access to the medial supplies needed to respond to this and future pandemics, as well as the health of the U.S. supply chain.

This bill has earned broad support from the very frontline workers it stands to arm with critically needed PPE, including those represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and the Service Employees International Union.