

Dear Senator Casey,

Thank you for supporting the Medical Supply Transparency and Delivery Act.

The struggles we face with the novel coronavirus are far from over. Glaring holes remain in the medical supply chain and testing infrastructure. Yet, the Trump Administration is scaling back its work to address the pandemic.

Centralized, federal leadership is necessary for the efficient purchase and transparent distribution of medical equipment, including personal protective equipment and testing resources.

State governments depend on the federal government for aid and assistance during times of national emergency. Just as importantly, without central coordination, states are being forced to compete against each other for critical supplies, which has led to skyrocketing prices and increased risk for health care workers and the public.

According to a Washington Post-Ipsos poll, in early May, two-thirds of health care workers cited an insufficient supply of respirators, which are masks that filter out most airborne particles. And according to a new analysis published in the Lancet--one of the world's most prestigious medical journals -- those respirators offer far more protection for health care workers than a normal surgical mask.

This is all set against the backdrop of a potential resurgence of COVID-19 cases as states including Pennsylvania reopen across the country.

That's why we're writing to ask you to urge Senate leadership to include provisions from the Medical Supply Transparency and Delivery Act in the next coronavirus stimulus package, as the House recently did.

The legislation should:

**Create a central coordinator position to oversee federal purchasing and distribution of medical supplies.** This person would have the full authority to utilize the Defense Production Act in order to compel companies to produce necessary medical equipment.

**Establish transparency and accountability in handling of the medical supply chain including:**

- a. Public, weekly reports of current stockpiles of supplies and projected needs.
- b. Publicly posting states' requests for medical equipment and locations where supplies are distributed.

These measures are crucial to ensuring a steady, reliable supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing supplies for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. As the United States of America, we need to be united in protecting health care workers so that they can protect everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emma Horst-Martz  
Campaign Associate, PennPIRG

Val Griffeth, MD, PhD  
Co-Founder, Get Us PPE

### **Signatures From Pennsylvania Groups**

Stephanie Shell  
Senior Director of Strategy Development, Pennsylvania Public Health Association

Eileen Andrews  
Executive Director, Sheep Inc Health Care Center

William Kurtycz  
CEO, Hyndman Area Health Center, Inc

Sara Jann  
Executive & Strategic Initiatives Manager, Maternity Care Coalition

Eric Kiehl  
Director of Policy and Partnership, Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers

Carol Thornton  
Director of Grants and Public Policy, Partnership for Better Health

Brenda Shelton-Dunston  
Executive Director, Philadelphia Black Women's Health Alliance

Sally Jo Snyder  
Director of Advocacy and Consumer Engagement, Consumer Health Coalition

Mickey Gula  
Executive Director, Buhl Health Foundation

## **Groups From Other States Who Have Signed This Letter**

National Association of Certified Professional Midwives

Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants (SEMPA)

Washington University Physicians

Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action

Massachusetts Public Health Association

Maine Radiologic Society

Consumers for Affordable Health Care

The Maine Society For Respiratory Care (MeSRC)

Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians

Health Care For All Massachusetts

IL Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Respiratory Health Association

AIDS Foundation Chicago

EverThrive Illinois

SEIU Healthcare Illinois

Illinois Public Health Association

North Carolina Public Health Association

MSU UHP Dental Services

Montana Medical Student Association

Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Master's of Public Health Graduate Student Association

Missouri College of Emergency Physicians

CU Anschutz Women's Health Interest Group

Orthopedic Surgery Interest Group

Sports Medicine Interest Group (CU Anschutz SOM)

Denver Health United Workers

University of Colorado Oncology Group

UFCW Local 7

University of Colorado School of Medicine Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG)

American Medical Women's Association RVU

The University of Colorado School of Medicine SNMA chapter

The American Medical Women's Association

American Medical Women's Association at Colorado State University

AMWA CU Boulder

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

School Nurses Organization of Arizona

San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility

American Academy of Pediatrics, California