DATE: May 29, 2020

ACTION ALERT TITLE:
THE "HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY OMNIBUS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS" (HEROES) ACT (H.R. 6800) IS A MUCH-NEEDED RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT NATIONAL PANDEMIC

Tell your Senators to take immediate action to address the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on our people, our families, our communities, our states, and our nation.

THE ISSUE:
The Coronavirus pandemic is having a devastating toll on every American and on our way of life. More than 100,000 Americans have died in the last four months and more than 1.7 million have gotten sick. Another 21 million unemployment claims were filed in the third week of May, pushing the total past 40 million unemployed Americans, or the equivalent of one out of four workers since mid-March. Many businesses are closed - some forever- and the negative impact the virus will have on entire industries is likely to reverberate for years, if not decades. Furthermore, the pandemic has exposed many of the problems and dangers of our nation's inequalities, such as the racial wealth gap, the digital divide, weaknesses and challenges to our education system, problems in our criminal justice system, employment and the health care disparities to name a few. This includes how these inequalities exacerbate our attempts to make our nation whole again.

In response to this catastrophe, the U.S. House of Representatves passed H.R. 6800, the "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions," or "HEROES" Act on 5/15/2020 by a vote of 208 yeas to 199 nays (see who voted which way on the following pages), and has sent it to the Senate for consideration. The HEROES Act is a bold and much needed response to many of the more pressing problems facing our nation due to the pandemic. Among other things, H.R. 6800, provides more than $3 trillion to federal agencies, state and local governments, small businesses, and individuals. Specifically, the HEROES Act would provide almost $1 trillion to state and local governments, establishes a "heroes" fund to provide hazard pay for essential workers (as defined as those whose work requires them to perform their duties during the Covid-19 emergency and whose work involves routine interaction with others (this doesn't include telework), makes another round of benefits to individuals of as much as $1,200 and extends unemployment benefits through Jan. 31, 2021 as well as provides $2.1 billion for worker training programs. H.R. 6800 also authorizes $1.5 billion in grants to states and territories to help low-income households with drinking water and wastewater service payments. The measure also addresses food stamp payments, housing and homelessness, creates an $8.8 billion Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund and provides $25 billion in emergency funding for the U.S. Postal Service in fiscal year 2020.

The HEROES Act is a bold piece of legislation which begins to address many of the needs we have identified arising from this pandemic. It by no means resolves all of our problems, but it is a good start. We now need the Senate to act quickly and boldly. Our response to this pandemic will reflect on us as a nation and us as a people for decades to come, and may have serious repercussions if not handled with forethought and care.

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TAKE ACTION NOW

Contact both your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT BOLD, IMMEDIATE ACTION TO HELP OUR NATION AND OUR PEOPLE RECOVER FROM THE PANDEMIC. URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE HEROES LEGISLATION. To contact your Senators you may:

**MAKE A PHONE CALL**
Call your Senators in Washington, DC by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators' offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

**SEND AN EMAIL**
To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov and click on “Contact” under “Senators.” You can look up your Senators by name or state; go to their web sites to send an e-mail.

**WRITE A LETTER**
To write letters to your Senators, mail them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!

THE MESSAGE

- We need an immediate, bold response to the challenges in our society which have been exacerbated and revealed by the Coronavirus pandemic;
- Too many Americans are hurting for us to not do anything;
- From the racial wealth gap to the digital divide, to health care disparities, unemployment, the criminal justice system, as well as so many other inequities. The current plight for too many African Americans and people of color has been negatively impacted and further damaged. We must take steps to heal the nation before we can begin to move beyond the damage caused by the Coronavirus;
- The House of Representatives responded courageously to many of the challenges we currently face with the HEROES Act (H.R. 6800); the Senate must now move with similar boldness and urgency;
- Our response to the Coronavirus pandemic will reflect on us as a nation and us as a people for decades to come. There will be serious repercussions if not handled with forethought and care.

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(date)

The Honorable ______________________________
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF THE “HEROES ACT” (H.R. 6800) LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Dear Senator ________________________________:

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to do all you can to respond swiftly and boldly to the current, unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic which is threatening our lives, our livelihoods, and the security of our nation. More than 100,000 Americans have died in the last four months as a result, and millions more are ill or caring for an infected loved one. Moreover, millions of Americans have lost their jobs; another 21 million unemployment claims were filed in the third week of May, pushing the total past 40 million Americans, or the equivalent of one out of four workers have been laid off since mid-March.

On May 15, 2020, the US House of Representatives responded to our national dilemma be passing HR 6800, the "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions," or "HEROES“ Act. This bold, comprehensive and, forward-thinking legislation infuses more than $3 trillion into federal agencies, state and local governments, small businesses, and individuals. It addresses problems as varied as housing and homelessness, creates an $8.8 billion Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund and provides $25 billion in emergency funding for the U.S. Postal Service in fiscal year 2020. It also address worker safety, unemployment, food assistance, access to clean water, small business loans, election reform, and the collection of disaggregated data, to name just a few of the provisions in the bill.

Our nation’s response to this pandemic will reflect on us as a people for decades to come. Without taking these comprehensive steps forward our country may never fully recover. We must resolve to help every corner of our nation to repair the damages and move forward.

I look forward to your response and to seeing what actions you take to help resolve the problems the Coronavirus has created or exasperated. Please let me know your thoughts or any ideas you may have on how we can work together to see the legislative response brought by the “HEROES” ACT to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact BOTH your U.S. Senators

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ACTION ALERT SIGN-UP

Please Print Clearly

Name ____________________________________________
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Branch Address __________________________________

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