DATE: August 24, 2020

ACTION ALERT TITLE:

THE NAACP CONTINUES TO URGE A COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL PLAN TO ADDRESS THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

COVID-19 HAS EXPOSED AND WORSENED MANY OF THE FISSURES THAT HAVE PLAGUED OUR SOCIETY FOR FAR TOO LONG

THE ISSUE:

Our nation needs strong comprehensive federal leadership to help all Americans weather the current pandemic, which is now gone on for more than five months. As of August 24, 2020, there have been almost 6 million diagnosed cases of Coronavirus in the U.S. and over 180 thousand reported deaths. Tens of millions of our fellow countrymen and women have lost their jobs in the coronavirus recession; as many as 40 million American men, women, and children are facing eviction in the coming months with thousands more facing foreclosure on their homes; and tens of thousands of businesses are closed – many for good.

The Coronavirus pandemic has hit communities of color – particularly African Americans – disproportionately hard. African Americans are infected with COVID-19 at nearly three times the rate of white Americans, and are twice as likely to die from the virus. Furthermore, systemic racism hasn’t just evidenced itself in the health care system: because of the long and enduring history of bigotry and inequality in our nation, the impact of the pandemic is being felt much more acutely by African Americans in almost every aspect of life. From unemployment to rental evictions to hunger to the ability for our children to learn remotely to safely casting a ballot, and that is just naming a few areas, African Americans are having to deal with the pain of the pandemic on our lives at disproportionately higher cases than white Americans – too many of whom are suffering as well.

It is because of this unprecedented pain and suffering that is being felt by hundreds of millions of Americans – a pain that is being amplified in communities of color across our country – that we need bold, and comprehensive innovative federal action and we need it now. Americans are suffering, and it appears it will only get worse.

In mid-May of this year, the House of Representatives passed NAACP-endorsed H.R. 6800, the “Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions,” or HEROES Act, which, at a cost of more than $3 trillion, would adequately address many of the ills caused – or exacerbated – by the pandemic. More than two months later, the Senate majority offered its response, the HEALS Act. At $1 trillion, this anemic response was not even supported by a majority of the majority party. When it became clear that there was no deal on hand, Senate Majority leader Senator Mitch McConnell (KY) chose to adjourn the Senate for over three weeks.

These unprecedented times require extraordinary, bold, new, comprehensive and well-honed leadership and empathy by our federal government. So far, in the U.S. Senate we have received the usual partisan politics. We need to enact a strong, comprehensive bill like the HEROES Act and then continue to address on-going needs of all Americans.

STAY CONNECTED @NAACP
TAKE ACTION

Contact your Representative and both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO PASS A BOLD, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO COMBAT THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS**. To Contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

**MAKE A PHONE CALL**

Call your Senators Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and ask to be transferred to your Senators’/Congressman’s offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

**SEND AN EMAIL**

To send an email to your Representative, go to "www.house.gov", and on the home page click “Representatives”. This will allow you to click your Representative link either by state or by name. Click on your Representative and you will be directed to his / her web page, which will have instructions on how to send an e-mail. The homepage of "www.house.gov" also has a tool to help you identify who your Representative is.

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov and click on “Contact” on the left hand side. 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, send them to:

The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.  20510

To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:

The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**THE MESSAGE**

- The Coronavirus pandemic has hit communities of color – especially African Americans – disproportionately hard. African Americans are infected with COVID-19 at nearly 3 times the rate of white Americans, and are twice as likely to die from the virus;

- Systemic racism hasn't just evidenced itself in the health care system during the pandemic: because of the long and enduring history of bigotry and inequality in our nation, the impact of the pandemic is being felt much more acutely by African Americans in almost every aspect of life;

- From unemployment to rental evictions to hunger to the ability for our children to learn remotely to safely casting a ballot, and that is just naming a few areas, African Americans are having to deal with the pain of the pandemic on our lives much more than white Americans – many of whom are suffering as well;

- Our nation needs – we deserve – bold, strong, and innovative federal leadership to help all Americans weather the current pandemic.

**STAY CONNECTED**

@NAACP
(date)

The Honorable __________________________________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: PASS A BOLD, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO COMBAT THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Dear Senator / Representative__________________________________________

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to work with US Senators and House Members to come to an effective agreement on a comprehensive healthcare and stimulus package to provide relief for much of the needless suffering that is occurring across our nation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Americans, including your constituents, are suffering and there is no relief in sight. Too many people are sick, dying, unemployed, homeless, hungry, and not getting the education they need, to name but a few maladies and too much of the suffering is being borne disproportionately by racial and ethnic minorities. These unprecedented times require extraordinary, bold, new, and well-honed leadership and empathy by our federal government.

Legislation such as HR. 6800, the HEROES Act, should be fully enacted immediately, and then you should listen to your constituents about what more is needed. We need big, decisive steps to help all Americans, especially those who may not have resources to help them through these troubling times.

Our nation, our economy, and our people are counting on you to be the leaders we elected you to be. Americans, are suffering. We are at a heretofore unknown place in our history. It is time for you to demonstrate the leadership and the empathy required and enact a bold and effective response.

I look forward to your response and to working with you to ensure that we meet America’s needs in these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)
ACTION ALERT SIGN-UP

Please Print Clearly

Name ____________________________________________________________
Title ____________________________________________________________
Address/P.O. Box __________________________________________________
City ________________ State ________________ Zip Code _____________
Home Telephone ________________ CellPhone _________________________
Email ____________________________________________________________
Branch Name _____________________________________________________
Branch Address __________________________________________________
Another unarmed black man shot... And whether it's insufficient training, conscious/unconscious bias or...
flat out racism, THIS HAS TO STOP! #JusticeForJacobBlake #WeAreDoneDying

NAACP · @NAACP · 4h
@RepAdams questioned Louis DeJoy about mail delays in her North Carolina district. DeJoy lives in North Carolina but knows nothing. She asks him to reconsider the changes he’s implemented given stress to American people. He refuses to answer. #SaveTheUSPS #DeliverDemocracy

NAACP · @NAACP · 4h
Upon questioning by @RepKatiePorter, Louis DeJoy admits he doesn’t know cost of mailing a postcard AND doesn’t know how many people voted by mail in last election. She tells him: “I’m concerned about your understanding of this agency.” So are we. #SaveTheUSPS #DeliverDemocracy

NAACP · @NAACP · 4h
@RashidaTlaib grills Louis DeJoy about his Amazon interests & conflict it poses with postal service. “Your job is not to secure your own profit schemes. It’s to serve the American people. You can either divest or resign.” #SaveTheUSPS #DeliverDemocracy
ARE YOU WITH US?

BECOME A MEMBER