

## CROSS-PRACTICE ISSUES

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### Congress Passes Additional COVID-19 Stimulus Legislation

The U.S. House of Representatives last night passed additional stimulus [legislation](#) providing \$484 billion in emergency relief in response to the financial impacts caused by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The legislation, H.R. 266, the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act*, contains extended appropriations to many health and economic relief programs, building on funding measures provided by the recently passed *CARES Act*, [H.R. 748](#). President Trump is expected to sign the measure today.

Extended economic relief appropriations measures included in the legislation:

- An additional \$321 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, with \$60 billion set aside for underbanked businesses;
- An additional \$50 billion for the Disaster Loans Program Account;
- \$10 billion for Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Grants.

Extended health appropriations measures include:

- \$75 billion for hospitals to cover increased expenses;
- \$25 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) coronavirus testing initiatives, with certain provision containing:
  - \$11 billion reserved for state and local testing developments, as well as employer testing efforts;
  - \$1.8 billion to the National Institutes of Health;
  - \$1 billion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
  - \$1 billion to help cover testing costs of uninsured patients;
  - \$825 million for community health centers and rural health clinics
  - \$22 million to the Food and Drug Administration.

Additionally, the bill contains requirements relating to testing efforts, including that HHS provide a monthly data report detailing coronavirus cases by race, ethnicity, gender, and region.

This is the fourth piece of legislation Congress has passed in response to the coronavirus pandemic. H.R. 266 is deemed “phase 3.5” in a line of relief packages, as an interim measure to replenish funding from the CARES Act. For more information, see this Academy [alert](#).

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