

HEALTH ISSUES

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March 19, 2020

President Trump Signs Coronavirus Aid Legislation

President Trump signed into law last night [legislation](#) to address the continually developing national crisis caused by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The legislation, which passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 14, was voted on in the U.S. Senate yesterday as well. H.R. 6201, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, consists of emergency aid for Americans impacted by the coronavirus.

Provisions in the amended bill include:

- Funding for safety net programs including food assistance and unemployment insurance;
- Establishing a paid family and sick leave program;
- Coverage of diagnostic testing for COVID-19 with no patient cost sharing, including for uninsured patients;
- Suspension of work requirements for food stamps.

The bill builds on [legislation](#) that President Trump signed into law on March 6, 2020, the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020*. H.R. 6074 provided \$8.3 billion to relief efforts to contain the coronavirus, with \$3.1 billion allocated to the Department of Health and Human Services' discretion, and \$950 million for state and local health departments.

On March 13, President Trump declared the pandemic a national emergency, calling on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help lead a critical response to the outbreak. In addition to the legislation passed regarding the coronavirus, congress and the administration are working on another funding measure which would provide additional economic relief for individuals and businesses.

If you have any questions regarding this *Academy Alert*, please contact Devin Boerm, deputy director of public policy (Boerm@actuary.org, 202-785-6929).

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