

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise  
Minority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2049 Rayburn House Office  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Hoyer and Minority Whip Scalise:

We write to encourage you to include robust funding for animal disease prevention and response efforts and infrastructure in the next economic relief package. As we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress must consider how to prevent similar pandemics and outbreaks from occurring in the future—and a One Health framework would be an invaluable preparedness tool.

The current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic illustrates the importance of understanding the links between human and animal health, and how a One Health approach is essential to our knowledge of these diseases. One Health is the concept that the health of humans, animals, and the environment are inextricably linked. Coronaviruses, including COVID-19, originate in animals—like camels, civets and bats—and are usually not transmissible to humans. However, a coronavirus can mutate and pass from animals to humans and then from human to human, as was the case with the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic in the early 2000s and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The United States must remain on the cutting edge of research into animal, human, and environmental health. Investing in public health infrastructure across a One Health framework to address zoonotic and reverse zoonotic diseases will improve the safety of our families and food supply chain.

Given the significant and far-reaching social and economic consequences of zoonotic diseases, it is critical that we prioritize a One Health approach in the next coronavirus response package. Successful public health preparedness and response efforts require the cooperation and coordination of the human, animal and environmental health communities—as well as improved coordination across the federal government.

Additionally, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) has been a valuable tool for dealing with the influx of COVID-19 testing needs. NAHLN laboratories have long provided early detection of significant animal disease, rapid response to the presence of a confirmed disease and appropriate recovery from an outbreak.

We ask that you continue to support research funding in response to COVID-19 with animal health in mind to continue to keep our country safe.

Sincerely,



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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Collin C. Peterson  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

/s/

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Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress