Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
Town Hall
DECEMBER 17, 2020
Administration’s Failure to Address the Coronavirus Pandemic

- The United States accounts for just 4% of the world’s population, but 25% of coronavirus cases and nearly 20% of coronavirus deaths.

- More than 300,000 lives in the U.S. have been lost as a result of the coronavirus, more than 3,000 per day.
  - In California, more than 21,000 people have died.

- There have been over 16.4 million confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S., and there are currently more than three times as many new cases each day than at the peak of the summer.

- The economy lost 22 million jobs in March and April, only half of which have been recovered.

- More than 14 million people have lost employer-provided health insurance during the pandemic.

- 40 million people are at risk of losing their homes. Between 2.4 million and 5 million American households are at risk of foreclosure or eviction in January alone.

- Nearly one-fourth of adults report that their family has received assistance from unemployment insurance, SNAP, or charitable organizations since the start of the pandemic.

- Nearly 25% of small businesses remain closed as a result of the coronavirus and 4 million businesses are estimated to close permanently this year. Small businesses anticipate the worst is yet to come.

- GDP decreased 31.4% in the second quarter of 2020, wiping out five years of economic growth.
Daily new coronavirus cases per million residents

Based on 7-day rolling averages.

By The New York Times | Sources: Local health agencies and World Bank
Action to Address the Coronavirus Crisis

**March 4:** House passed the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*, $8.3 billion in emergency funds for prevention, preparedness, and response efforts and to support small businesses that have been affected. – **Signed into law**

**March 14:** House passed the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act* to address the economic impacts being felt by Americans – it ensures free coronavirus testing; emergency paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave; unemployment insurance; and access to nutrition for children, seniors, and low-income families. – **Signed into law**

**March 27:** House passed the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to provide economic assistance to families facing lost income and industry sector employees bearing the brunt of this public health crisis. – **Signed into law**
April 23: House passed the **Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act** to provide additional emergency small business relief and funding for hospitals, health care workers, and testing. – **Signed into law**

May 15: House Democrats passed the **HEROES Act** to provide critical funding to state, local, and tribal governments; establish hazard pay for frontline workers; expand testing, treatment, and tracing; and provide additional financial relief to Americans. 

*After the HEROES Act passed, the House permitted proxy voting.*

October 1: House Democrats passed the **Updated Heroes Act**, a $2.2 trillion compromise relief package including the restoration of the $600 supplemental unemployment payment; extended unemployment eligibility; assistance to renters and homeowners; expansion of the PPP program; and another $1,200 payment per taxpayer and $500 per dependent.
The Updated Heroes Act included $436 billion for state, local, territorial and tribal governments.

Contra Costa County would receive $323,369,224 in federal relief funding, including funding for our cities and towns such as:

- Concord - $34,238,872
- Martinez - $9,049,722
- Pittsburg - $19,124,061
- Richmond - $25,956,738
- Walnut Creek - $18,434,468
Democrats, led by Speaker Pelosi, have repeatedly offered to work with Republicans to pass a coronavirus relief package.

This week, details were released about the $900 billion relief package that Congress is expected to vote on either at the end of the week or over the weekend. Below are some of the details expected to be included in the package:

- Individuals receive $600 - $700 in direct stimulus payments;
- $300 per week in federal unemployment assistance;
- Up to $250 billion in PPP funding;
- $90 billion to local governments, administered through FEMA;
- $17 billion for airlines; and
- Additional aid for K-12, higher education, and public transit.
Funding the Government: The House and Senate continue negotiating a bill to fund the government before funding expires tomorrow. House and Senate leaders are expected to combine the coronavirus relief package with the funding bill and vote on the total package by the end of the week or over the weekend.

Purdue Pharma Oversight Hearing: Today, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing to examine the role of Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family in fueling the opioid epidemic. For decades, Purdue executives flooded the market with addictive painkillers, targeting doctors who were known to over-prescribe.
### Senate Inaction

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Committees

- **Education & Labor**
  - Ensure that Americans’ needs are addressed so that students and workers may move forward in a changing school system and a competitive global economy

- **Transportation & Infrastructure**
  - Maintain and improve the transportation and infrastructure in our country to best ensure the efficient flow of people, goods, and ideas

- **Oversight & Reform**
  - Main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives
Mark’s Actions Since Coming to Congress

30 initiatives enacted into law, including efforts to:
- Expand John Muir National Historic Site
- Empower pharmacists to fight the opioid crisis

38 legislative efforts passed the House and Committee including efforts to:
- Instruct the Navy to exonerate the Port Chicago 50
- Ensure Isabel Bueso, a constituent, is not deported and continues to receive treatment for her life-threatening disease

Caucuses & Initiatives:
- Future of Work Wages and Labor
- Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus, Founder & Co-Chair
- Urban Regional Studies Caucus, Founder
- Working Group on Saving Local News
Some Legislation Our Office Has Introduced

- **Justice for Dislocated Workers Act (H.R. 8583)** – Requires large corporations to evaluate, consider, and mitigate the impacts of a possible closure or downsizing to the local workforce and economy;

- **Protection and Advocacy in Education Act (H.R. 8187)** – Ensures the rights of students with disabilities are upheld by providing Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) direct funding for their education work;

- **Community Services Block Grant Enhancement Act (H.R. 7328)** – would make temporary changes to a federal program designed to address poverty to help communities recover from the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic;

- **Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act (H.R. 5611)** – Creates policies to protect student athletes who may have concussions;

- **Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act (H.R. 5569)** – Identifies and funds mental health interventions for students in Head Start programs;

- **Preventing Vape Use Act (H.R. 5005)** – Recalls all vape devices until they undergo pre-market review by the FDA;
Some Legislation Our Office Has Introduced - Continued

- **Equitable Transit Oriented Development Support Act (H.R. 5783)** – Creates loans for affordable housing and developments in underserved communities near transit hubs;

- **Clean Federal Fleet Act (H.R. 5554)** – Ensures that federal vehicle fleets comply with low greenhouse gas emissions standards;

- **Deportation Relief for Isabel Bueso and Her Family (H.R. 4225)** – Provides permanent status for Isabel Bueso to continue receiving life-saving medical treatment;

- **Gun Safety Board and Research Act (H.R. 4177)** – Establishes a gun safety board to research and address the epidemic of gun violence;

- **Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act (H.R. 4107)** – Creates funding to support programs for young children with disabilities in schools;

- **Saving Local News Act (H.R. 3126)** – Creates a new pathway for local news organizations to gain non-profit status;

- **Exonerating the 50 African-American Sailors Court-Martialed by the Navy After the Port Chicago Explosion (H.Con.Res. 49)** – Recognizes the sacrifice of the sailors who died in the explosion at Port Chicago and exonerates the 50 sailors convicted of mutiny.
Democracy Awards

Transparency, Accountability, and Innovation Award – 2019 Winner

“The office believes Americans deserve an efficient and effective government that works on their behalf each and every day. In order to build public trust, Congressman DeSaulnier and staff strive to be transparent and accountable to constituents by providing a higher-level of customer service.” – Brad Fitch, President & CEO of the nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation

Constituent Service Award – 2018 Finalist (1 of 3 Democrats)

“Constituent service has been the hallmark of Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA-11) and his office since his election in 2015...To keep constituents informed, Representative DeSaulnier uses Facebook Live to explain hot button issues happening in Washington in real time, and maintains an impressive four-day response time for constituents who send questions or concerns regarding his congressional activity.” – Brad Fitch, President & CEO of the nonpartisan Congressional Management Foundation
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