April 20, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer,

Thank you for your leadership as we push to build on and improve the provisions of the first three coronavirus response bills. As the House of Representatives and Senate works on a CARES 2 package, we urge you to incorporate the principles and priorities laid out by the Executive Board of the Congressional Progressive Caucus in its April 10, 2020 letter.¹

On behalf of millions of members across the country, our organizations are working individually and collectively to advance solutions that meet the scale of this crisis. We agree with the Congressional Progressive Caucus that federal and state assistance in its many forms should be available to all, regardless of tax status, immigration status, age, sex, disability, or location. Assistance must be sustained until the public health and economic crisis is over. Furthermore, our response must advance economic and racial equity as the latest data demonstrate that the most dire impacts of this pandemic and economic downturn is hurting low-income people and especially low-income people of color.

With more than 26,000 U.S. deaths from coronavirus, 17 million Americans losing their jobs in the past month, and voters forced to choose between their health and democratic duty, Congress must act without delay to pass a CARES 2 package that includes the following:

- Prevention of further layoffs through a payroll guarantee and work-sharing, with stronger oversight and conditions on industry bailout funds that emphasize ensuring workers get paid;
- Financial relief through sustained direct cash assistance, expansion of the social safety net to include everyone, debt relief, housing protections and assistance, and small business aid that supports employees as well as employers.

• Promotion of public health by ensuring protections for essential workers, providing coronavirus treatment at no out-of-pocket cost, addressing critical supply shortages, expanding paid leave to all workers, increasing support to state and local governments, protecting those who are incarcerated or detained, and fulfilling other health and safety needs; and

• Strengthening of our democracy by requiring vote-by-mail nationwide while maintaining access to in-person voting.

We stand with our congressional allies in fighting for a CARES 2 package in line with these principles and priorities. We appreciate your leadership thus far, and we are counting on you to insist on legislation that meets our country's urgent needs, especially for communities vulnerable because of structural inequities.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Youth
America's Voice
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Athlete Ally
Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative
Can't Stop! Won't Stop! Consulting
Connecticut Citizenship Action Group (CCAG)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Defense
Community Change Action
Center for Popular Democracy
Demand Progress
DemCast USA
Demos
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)
Family Equality
FORGE, Inc.
Health Care for America Now
Hispanic Federation
Indivisible
interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
League of Women Voters of the United States
Modern Military Association of America
Muslim Caucus
Muslim Caucus of America
Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Human Services Assembly
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Health Network
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates
Our Revolution
Oxfam America
Patriotic Millionaires
Peace Action
PFLAG National
Positive Women's Network-USA
Presente.org
Progressive Democrats of America/Reno Chapter
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Citizen
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Social Security Works
Stand Up America
Sunrise Movement
Swipe Out Hunger
Tax March
The Forum for Youth Investment
Union for Reform Judaism
United We Dream
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Whitman-Walker Health and Whitman-Walker Institute