CARES ACT - BOLSTERING HEALTH CARE RESPONSE

Addressing Supply Shortages
- Provides $11 billion in funding to advance the manufacturing of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and other medical needs of the American people during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Allocates $16 billion to procure personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and other medical supplies for the strategic national stockpile.
- Requires the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to expedite drug applications to prevent drug shortages.

Access to Health Care for COVID-19 Patients
- Provides $100 billion to support hospitals and health care providers as they face COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue.
- Provides $4.3 billion in funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention to support public health preparedness and response.
- Ensures free coverage for COVID-19 testing and vaccines, when made available.
- Includes $1.32 billion in supplemental funding for community health centers on the front lines of testing and treating patients.
- Supports rural community health outreach to protect rural residents, who are disproportionately older and more likely to have a chronic disease, and therefore at higher risk for severe illness if they contract COVID-19.
- Establishes a Ready Reserve Corps of trained doctors and nurses to respond to COVID-19.
- Removes restrictions on the use of telehealth for Medicare beneficiaries to help vulnerable patients access care while avoiding exposure to others.
- Improves access to home health services and post-acute care facilities for Medicare beneficiaries.

Innovation
- Facilitates partnerships with the private sector on research and development for public health emergencies.
- Speeds up the development of drugs for animals to help prevent animal-to-human transmission, which is suspected to have occurred with the outbreak of novel coronavirus.

Health Care Workforce
- Reauthorizes programs to support clinician training and faculty development programs and help the health care workforce meet the needs of populations at increased risk of contracting COVID-19.

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