May 12, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-323, The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

People and families in every part of America are in the middle of an unprecedented crisis. They are looking for relief, certainty and a policy response that matches the scale of this crisis.

With more than 33 million people filing for unemployment in the past seven weeks as the uninsured rate hit a level not seen since the Great Depression, up to 35 million people at risk of losing their health care and 87 million Americans already uninsured and underinsured, families are looking for certainty about when they’ll get a paycheck back into their pockets, so they can pay rent, make bills, and put food on the table. Additionally, they’re asking about whether they’ll be able to see a doctor and afford their prescriptions.

Millions of businesses – including small and minority-owned businesses – are looking for certainty about how they’ll be able to avoid closing permanently without jeopardizing the lives of their workers by bringing them back before it is safe to do so.

These concerns – from how we end mass unemployment and ensure access to health care during a pandemic to getting relief to all businesses and their workers – need to be addressed in this legislation at the scale necessary to fully respond to this crisis and deliver certainty to the American people.

As we read the more than 1800-page legislation, we must have more time to determine what is in and what is not in this legislation, as well as a conversation about the bill as a caucus. Most of us will already be flying by Thursday, shaving even more time off our full review.
We request delaying the Friday vote to the following week. We also request a full caucus meeting and conversation when we get back to Washington to discuss the bill and any amendments that might be needed to ensure that it truly reflects the priorities and the work of the entire caucus.

Sincerely,

Pramila Jayapal
Co-Chair
Congressional Progressive Caucus

Mark Pocan
Co-Chair
Congressional Progressive Caucus

cc: Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries, Vice Chair Katherine Clark, Assistant Democratic Leader Ben Ray Lujan