



September 25, 2020

President Donald J Trump
The White House
Washington DC 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, The Catholic Health Association of the United States, Catholic Charities USA, the National Catholic Educational Association, Catholic Relief Services, the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, we write to urge you to come together now on a legislative package to address the public health and economic crisis facing our country and the global community as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our nation is suffering a profound crisis, with over 200,000 lives lost, 30 million Americans relying on unemployment assistance, and health care workers continuing to fight COVID-19 surges. For those in need here and abroad, as well as for the common good, our nation’s leaders must do more.

We write today as pastors, as health care leaders and those working every day to feed, house, educate and meet the needs of our community and those vulnerable around the world. In addition to serving the spiritual needs of the 70 million Catholics annually in our parishes, the ministries of our organizations collectively employ over 1 million people and provide health, education and charitable assistance to over 250 million people each year in the United States and around the world.

Over the last six months, we have seen the devastating impact of COVID-19. Families have lost loved ones in our hospitals; people are losing jobs; food insecurity has risen; staff of our respective ministries have become sick or lost their lives while bravely serving on the front lines; parishes, schools and

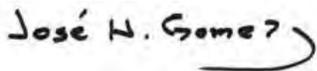
universities have closed to keep our communities safe; and millions of people we serve around the world are falling deeper into despair.

We have seen the ugly face of this pandemic and have sought to confront it by expanding our services and aid to those in need, providing education and continuing our prayer and sacramental care and access for our communities. Even though many schools, universities, parishes, and outreach efforts have had to temporarily close at times during the pandemic, our respective organizations have continued to stand in solidarity to assist those in need. Our staff have ventured into the streets to provide for the spiritual, health, educational, and social needs of millions of unemployed and hungry persons and families.

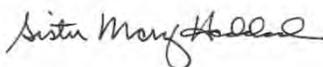
However, all this is not enough. Millions of American families face uncertainty as unemployment support expires, employer-provided health insurance is lost, missed rent and mortgage payments pile up, food insecurity deepens, and schools struggle. This uncertainty is compounded by the pandemic-related financial challenges faced by charities, hospitals, parishes, schools, universities and the social safety net. Now is the time for our nation's leaders to do their part to support those in need.

While we understand there are differences on how to proceed on the COVID-19 stimulus bill, the many needs of the present situation cry out for relief. Doing nothing or delaying only ensures more people will suffer. We therefore urge you to put aside partisan politics and prioritize human life and the common good by expediting negotiations to ensure not another day is lost in providing security and hope to people in need at home and abroad.

Sincerely,



Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President
U.S. Conference of Catholic
Bishops



Sister Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO
Catholic Health Association
of the United States



Mr. Sean Callahan
President and CEO
Catholic Relief Services



Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD
President and CEO
Catholic Charities USA



Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, CM
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Mr. Ralph Middlecamp
President
National Council of the
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Dale McDonald, PBVM, PhD
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