



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this note finds you healthy and safe. On Friday, the House passed the next stage of coronavirus relief, the “Heroes Act”, so I thought I should update you.

While this legislation was not perfect, it did contain several priorities important to our city and the most vulnerable among us. I supported it.

Among other provisions, the Heroes Act:

- Boosts funding by 15% for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). In my district I’ve visited food banks and seen lines around the block with people waiting for food. Families need this help.
- Extends unemployment benefits including the \$600 per week in pandemic unemployment assistance. Importantly, under the bill, this assistance does not count against other federal help like SNAP and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, a key priority I’ve been advocating.

- Provides a second round of direct economic stimulus payments to families up to \$6,000 per household. Importantly, under the Heroes Act, holders of Individual Tax Identification Numbers, such as undocumented immigrants, would now be eligible for economic stimulus payments.
- It also establishes a new \$200 billion fund to ensure essential workers who have risked their own health during this crisis receive hazard pay. These workers are the true heroes of this crisis and the Heroes Act helps compensate them more fairly.
- For New Yorkers struggling with rent, a new \$100 billion rental assistance initiative is created.
- The bill provides relief to states and localities facing severe financial shortfalls from the pandemic. New York State would receive \$34 billion and New York City would receive \$17 billion. This is an important start.
- For small businesses, the bill makes fixes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The Heroes Act would set aside 25% - or \$30 billion – of existing funds for firms with 10 or fewer employees.
- It also improves the PPP initiative by allowing businesses under stay-at-home orders to extend the loan coverage period until the end of the calendar year. This means those firms that were concerned about having to expend their loan proceeds within eight-weeks – such as many restaurants - will not face this requirement.
- \$10 billion more in small business grants is made available through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) initiative.

- Perhaps most importantly, the legislation includes \$75 billion for a national testing and tracing strategy. Only through widespread testing will we bring this virus under control, restore consumer confidence and allow our economy to begin a true recovery.

This legislation could have gone further. There will be more work to be done. For example, I would like to see a further expansion of healthcare investment. I also think greater paycheck assistance is needed and that we need more help for immigrant communities. However, this bill was necessary. Americans and New Yorkers are suffering, right now, and this bill would provide a lifeline of help.

I spoke on the House floor during debate. [You may view video of my remarks online here.](#)

You may [read my statement online here.](#)

Now that the House has passed this bill, we will need the Senate to act. The final legislation will once again, almost certainly, be the result of much compromise between the House, the Senate and the White House.

I will keep you updated as that process goes forward and continue fighting for resources to help our city through these challenges.

COVID-19 Testing Update

The City continues ramping up coronavirus testing. It is recommended that you obtain a test at a community site if you:

- Have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath, loss of appetite or smell), regardless of age, chronic conditions, or occupation;
- Come in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient, regardless of symptoms; or
- Work in a congregate residential setting (nursing home, shelter, or adult care facility), regardless of symptoms

A list of community sites with their hours is [online here](#).

Sites in or near our Congressional district include:

NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Cumberland

100 North Portland Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11205

718-388-5889

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

No appointment necessary.

NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, East New York

2094 Pitkin Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11207

718-388-5889

Hours: Monday - Saturday, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

No appointment necessary.

NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull

760 Broadway

Brooklyn, New York 11206

718-963-8000

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

No appointment necessary.

NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Gouverneur

227 Madison Street

New York, New York 10002

212-238-7897

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM; Saturday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

No appointment necessary.

Resources for Local Healthcare Providers

I am proud of the work our local hospitals, nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals are doing in our communities every day. It remains a top priority of mine to ensure they receive federal support that allows them to do their jobs and respond to these difficult circumstances.

I was pleased to announce that two of our local Brooklyn hospitals have received a combined \$99 million in federal funds. As coronavirus “hotspots”, these two hospitals have seen a surge in patients and these resources will help them meet these challenges.

NYC Health and Hospitals Woodhull will receive \$39,901,000 for their programs serving Bushwick and Williamsburg. Wyckoff Heights Medical Center will receive \$59,878,000. These funds are being made available through the CARES Act, legislation Congress enacted in late March. You can [read my release on this funding here.](#)

Relatedly, I have been concerned by media reports suggesting that the Department of Health and Human Services has not appropriately distributed donated doses of the drug “remedisivr,” which has shown some promise in shortening how long it takes patients to recover from COVID-19.

I was particularly disturbed to hear Wyckoff, which has seen an influx of patients, was denied the drug altogether. To that end, I wrote HHS, asking for fuller explanation for how they are choosing to allocate this precious medicine. I will continue pressing for answers and holding the agency accountable.

You can read my [letter online here](#).

Voting Rights Update

As a reminder, the Governor has issued an Executive Order allowing voters to request and vote via an absentee ballot for any election held on or before June 23, 2020 due to the potential to contract the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

To request an absentee ballot, visit the NYC Board of Elections [website here](#).

Every New Yorker should know that you can safely exercise your right to vote even during this pandemic.

We continue seeing progress in New York, but we also know there is a long road ahead. Even after the virus is under control, true economic recovery will take time. Please know that throughout this, every day, I'm fighting to get working families the help they need; to ensure essential workers are paid better wages; and that our local healthcare providers receive their fair share of federal support.

I always want to hear from you with questions or if you have advice on how I can better serve the community. You may always contact my office for assistance [using this form](#). Submissions there are checked daily.

You will recall that I am regularly updating [my coronavirus webpage](#) with new information. Please check back to that page regularly. I also have a [small businesses coronavirus web page online here](#).

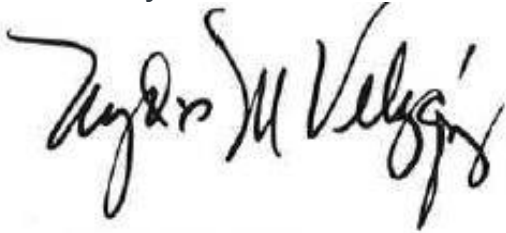
I am hopeful as we see hospitalization rates and admissions to Intensive Care Units and other metrics decline, we may be turning the corner on this terrible disease. However, I also suspect we have a distance yet to travel and a long summer ahead.

Please know, I'm here to help as we continue getting through this historic crisis together.

I'll be back in touch again soon.

Until then, thanks for reading.

Sincerely,



Nydia

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