



[House Democrats Unveil a New \\$3 Trillion Coronavirus Relief Bill](#)

Earlier this week, House Democrats unveiled a new \$3 trillion coronavirus relief package aimed at easing the pandemic's effect on the economy and health care system. The bill would include another round of direct payments to Americans, and leaders announced that the House will vote on the legislation this Friday. Even if the measure is passed in the House, it is not expected to clear the Senate, as Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has expressed his belief that it is unnecessary to work on a new aid package at this time. Other components of the bill include assistance to state and local governments, hazard pay for frontline health care workers, protection from eviction for renters and homeowners, assistance for farmers, a bolstering of Medicaid and Medicare, and forgiveness of student debt.

The legislation is known as the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, or HEROES Act. According to a summary, the package would provide close to \$1 trillion in relief for state, local, and tribal governments. Of that amount, about half would go towards states. The bill would also include a second round of direct payments to Americans, with \$1,200 per family member and up to \$6,000 per household. Additionally, it would extend unemployment benefits and ensure that weekly payments continue through January of next year. As things stand now, the current unemployment payment extension is set to expire later this summer in July. Furthermore, the relief package provides \$175 billion in funding to assist renters and homeowners with monthly rent and mortgage payments. \$200 billion would go towards a fund for frontline health care workers, \$75 billion would be set aside for testing and contact tracing, and another \$10 billion would be appropriated to bolster the small business loan program.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell dismissed the bill as a "liberal wishlist" earlier this week. He expressed that Senate Republicans would move forward with introducing legislation to offer legal liability protections to businesses, health care providers, and the manufacturers of protective gear in an effort to prevent the potential of a "second epidemic of frivolous lawsuits." Unlike McConnell, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressed that there is a "monumental" need for a new legislative relief package, particularly with an emphasis on helping struggling Americans and adversely affected states and localities. McConnell has previously stated that he would like to "hit pause" on coronavirus relief funds, however Pelosi countered that saying "To those who would suggest a pause, I'll say the hunger doesn't take a pause. The rent doesn't take a pause. The hardship doesn't take a pause." Pelosi's views have been echoed by several governors and mayors across the country, who have called for financial assistance from the federal government to deal with the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Proposing the legislation gives House Democrats an opportunity to showcase their priorities regarding how they wish to help the country deal with the ongoing health crisis. However, without at least some Republican support, the House bill will not be able to pass in the Senate.