Coronavirus I – Emergency Appropriations

Status: signed into law
President Trump signed into law a $7.8 billion emergency spending bill (H.R. 6074) (P.L. 116-123) to combat the coronavirus outbreak on March 6. The bipartisan Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 also allows the Medicare program to spend $500 million on telehealth programs used in response to the virus. The legislation includes $6.5 billion for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), $1.25 billion for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and $20 million for the Small Business Administration (SBA). The bill provides:

- $3.1 billion for the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to be used to develop and purchase vaccines and medical supplies;
- $300 million in contingency funds to purchase vaccines if necessary;
- $100 million for community health centers;
- $2.2 billion to the CDC, including $950 million for state and local preparedness grants, $300 million for global disease detection and response, and $300 million for the Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund;
- $836 million for the NIH;
- $10 million for worker-based training and health worker protection;
- $435 million for international public health programs, including $200 million for the U.S. Emergency Reserve Fund; and
- $300 million for humanitarian and health assistance in areas affected by the virus.

The bill will also allow HHS to regulate the commercial price of a coronavirus vaccine. It was advanced by the House of Representatives by a vote of 415-2 and was passed by the Senate by a vote of 96-1. Reps. Ken Buck (R-Colo.) and Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) as well as Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) voted against the measure.