



## **EDPMA NEWS ALERT: Congress Passes Second Coronavirus Package**

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Please note that EDPMA has created a Covid-19 resources page that can be accessed through a link under "Latest News and Updates" on EDPMA's home page. Now you can visit one place to find some of the most important EDPMA, CMS, and CDC alerts.

Today the Senate passed [H.R. 6201](#), the Families First Coronavirus Act, by a vote of 90 to 8. The bill, which passed the House on March 14, is now headed to the President for signature. As the second large piece of legislation to address the COVID-19 crisis, this bill provides a large-scale economic relief plan aimed to support Americans in combatting the spread of the coronavirus through the expansion of paid leave, food assistance, and unemployment assistance and through increased federal Medicaid funding. Speaker Pelosi and Secretary Mnuchin worked to negotiate the House-passed legislation, which was backed by President Trump.

The bill would increase federal medical assistance percentages (FMAP) for state Medicaid programs by 6.2 percentage points. Medicaid funding for U.S. territories would also be increased. The bill includes a prohibition against cost sharing and prior authorization for certain coronavirus testing and related services, such as provider visits for testing. It also appropriates \$1 billion for the National Disaster Medical System to reimburse costs associated with testing the uninsured. The bill would add personal respiratory protective devices as a covered countermeasure under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act and allow HHS to provide liability protections for certain emergency response products.

The chamber later passed "technical corrections" to the emergency aid bill which scale back "qualifying need" for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) circumstances in which an employee cannot work or telework because a child's school, day care, or childcare is unavailable. The original version of the bill would have required employers to provide employees with 12 weeks of partially paid FMLA leave for quarantine, to care for a family member, or to care for a child.

Members of Congress are already working on a third coronavirus package, which will focus on providing economic relief.

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