

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

Thank you for your strong leadership through this COVID-19 health crisis. As representatives for California's San Joaquin Valley, we are especially grateful for your quick actions to help slow the spread of this virus in California.

We write to request full and fair consideration for a share of the State of California's disaster funding to support our local communities in combatting the COVID-19 Pandemic that began on January 20, 2020 and continues. Our health care officials report a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), too few test kits and concern about being prepared for a surge in positive coronavirus cases. In addition, with our communities essentially shutdown, we have displaced businesses and workers, in addition to navigating school closures while officials work through regulations to maintain feeding hungry children in a region known for high poverty and hunger rates.

The San Joaquin Valley has many issues that compound these challenges, including a shortage of doctors, nurses, and specialists, as well as rural communities with *little to no access* to a health care provider. As you know, we simply do not have the infrastructure to absorb additional demand. The San Joaquin Valley has *the highest asthma rate* for children in the nation, with 1 in every 4 children having Asthma. This is of particular concern since the CDC has reported that people with asthma may be at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.

Our hope is that you, and your team, will work to ensure that the Valley is not passed over for resources during this crisis. We may not show as many positive cases as urban, populated areas, but the impacts here will be felt just as strongly. We expect to see a surge in positive cases.

Here are the specific areas of need:

- Supply of PPE for community hospitals, clinics and medical providers to keep workers safe.
- Supply of COVID-19 testing kits, which includes 45-minute rapid testing.
- Emergency funding to ensure rural area medical centers, some of which report being on the verge of closing, can stay open. In rural areas, time and distance are real challenges.
- Resources to ensure that communities have access to clean drinking water.
- Assistance to our agriculture community to prevent interruptions to our food supply while protecting the health and safety of the workforce. It is more apparent than ever that food is a national security issue.
- Assistance to help displaced workers and small businesses.

Our communities are taking all possible actions to stop the spread of this pandemic. We understand the size and scope of this pandemic demand assistance, coordination, and legislative action. That is why we have taken a bipartisan approach as state and federal lawmakers to speak on behalf of our constituents. We know you will give full and fair consideration to our concerns.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jim Costa (CA-16)



Rep. TJ Cox (CA-21)



Rep. Josh Harder (CA-10)



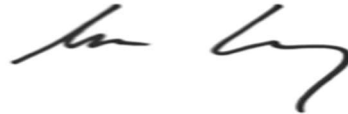
CA State Senator Andreas Borgeas



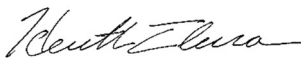
CA State Senator Anna Caballero



CA State Senator Melissa Hurtado



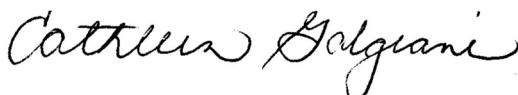
CA Assemblymember Adam Gray



CA Assemblymember Heath Flora



CA Assemblymember Frank Bigelow



CA State Senator Cathleen Galgiani



CA Assemblymember Jim Patterson



CA Assemblymember Vince Fong