

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2020

Donald Trump
President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to urge the immediate approval of extended unemployment benefits passed in Public Law No.: 116-127, the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, for the State of New York. New York State has over one-half of all COVID-19 cases in the United States. We must mobilize all resources possible in an expeditious manner to mitigate public health risk and economic decimation.

Absent federal intervention, the earliest New York State would qualify for Extended Unemployment Benefits is April, allowing benefits to be distributed in May to individuals who qualify. However, the situation in New York State grows increasingly urgent. On Thursday, March 19th, the New York State Labor Department registered more than 206,000 website logins and 159,000 phone calls by 12:00PM, a 400% increase over the average. Some parts of New York reported a 1000% increase in claims. The next day, New York State was declared a major disaster area. According to Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator, the practice of social distancing is especially important in New York, as individuals in the New York City are testing positive for COVID-19 at a rate of 28%, compared to 8% nationwide. Every sector of New York's economy is impacted by COVID-19 for the foreseeable future, including food, transportation, arts, entertainment, retail, education, real estate, and non-profit. While the public health and economic environment created by COVID-19 is unprecedented in modern history, it is certain that thousands of New Yorkers will rely on unemployment assistance.

We urge you allow the New York State extended benefits on-indicator to be in place as of March 20, 2020 without waiting for additional unemployment data which will not be reported until April.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this most urgent matter. We applaud actions taken at the New York State level, such as waiving the 7-day waiting period to apply for unemployment, to assist New Yorkers in need during this unprecedented crisis. It is imperative that the federal government do the same.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

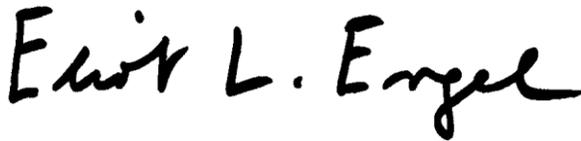
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Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



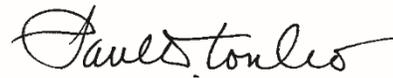
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



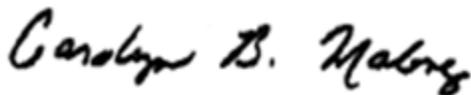
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Joseph Morelle
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

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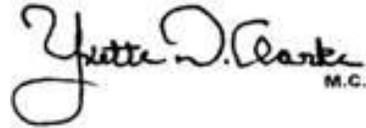
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Peter T. King
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Max Rose
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

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A blue ink handwritten signature of Antonio Delgado, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line.

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

A black ink handwritten signature of Lee Zeldin, featuring a large 'L' followed by a vertical line and a horizontal line.

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

A blue ink handwritten signature of Elise Stefanik, written in a cursive style.

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress