



The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

July 2, 2020

Dear Senator Warren,

Thank you for supporting the [Medical Supply Transparency and Delivery Act](#).

The struggles we face with the novel coronavirus are far from over. Glaring holes remain in the medical supply chain and testing infrastructure. Yet, the Trump Administration is scaling back its work to address the pandemic.

Centralized, federal leadership is necessary for the efficient purchase and transparent distribution of medical equipment, including personal protective equipment and testing resources.

State governments depend on the federal government for aid and assistance during times of national emergency. Just as importantly, without central coordination, states are being forced to compete against each other for critical supplies, which has led to skyrocketing prices and increased risk for health care workers and the public.

According to a [Washington Post-Ipsos poll](#), in early May, two-thirds of health care workers cited an insufficient supply of respirators, which are masks that filter out most airborne particles. And according to a [new analysis](#) published in the Lancet--one of the world's most prestigious medical journals -- those respirators offer far more protection for health care workers than a normal surgical mask.

This is all set against the backdrop of a [potential resurgence](#) of COVID-19 cases as states including Massachusetts reopen across the country.

That's why we're writing to ask you to urge Senate leadership to include provisions from the Medical Supply Transparency and Delivery Act in the next coronavirus stimulus package, as the House recently did.

The legislation should:

- Create a central coordinator position to oversee federal purchasing and distribution of medical supplies. This person would have the full authority to utilize the Defense Production Act in order to compel companies to produce necessary medical equipment.
- Establish transparency and accountability in handling of the medical supply chain including:
 - Public, weekly reports of current stockpiles of supplies and projected needs.
 - Publicly posting states' requests for medical equipment and locations where supplies are distributed.

These measures are crucial to ensuring a steady, reliable supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing supplies for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis. As the United States of America, we need to be united in protecting health care workers so that they can protect everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet S. Domenitz
Executive Director, MASSPIRG

Carlene Pavlos
Executive Director, Massachusetts Public Health Association

Amy Rosenthal
Executive Director, Health Care for All Massachusetts

Cindy Rowe
Executive Director, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action

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Executive Director, Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants (SEMPA)