

August 21, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

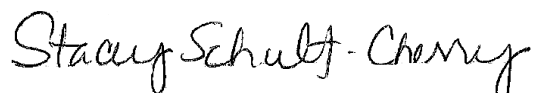
The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) urges you to set aside partisan differences and act quickly to pass a relief package to address the continued challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. ASM is a global society dedicated to the advancement of the microbial sciences and is composed of 30,000 scientists and health practitioners. Thousands of ASM's members are on the front lines of the fight against SARS-COV-2, most especially our members who direct and work in clinical microbiology laboratories and hospital settings around the country. We also represent many thousands of members engaged in ground-breaking and essential research whose work has been disrupted, or curtailed, as a result of the pandemic.

In the next negotiated COVID-19 relief legislation, ASM calls on Congress to include the following provisions:

- At least \$75 billion for testing and contact tracing as proposed in H.R. 6800 and passed by the House in May, in addition to supplemental emergency funding for the public health including diagnostics, for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) as proposed. Kits and ancillary supply shortages have plagued laboratories over the course of the pandemic. Greater transparency is needed regarding resource allocation decisions.

Congress took swift action earlier this year to pass the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery and Economic Security Act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act to address the crucial, evolving needs of the country. We call on you to work with a renewed sense of urgency to provide the additional support needed as the pandemic continues. ASM and its members stand ready to assist you. For questions, please contact Allen Segal, ASM Director of Policy and Advocacy, at asegal@asmusa.org or 202-942-9294.

Sincerely,



Stacey Schultz-Cherry, Ph.D.
Chair, Public and Scientific Affairs Committee
American Society for Microbiology



Stefano Bertuzzi, Ph.D., MPH
CEO
American Society for Microbiology