

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

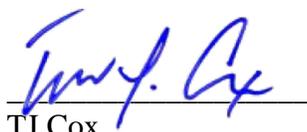
Dear Governor Newsom,

We are grateful for your decisive and bold leadership during the COVID-19 outbreak, and proud that our state is setting an example for the entire world in navigating this pandemic. We agree with your assessment that the foundation of any public health strategy should be diagnostic testing and that these tests must be easy to access with a reliable supply chain. Widespread diagnostic testing, robust contact tracing, and serology testing will help inform community interventions. The federal government sent state and local governments \$339.8 billion in the CARES Act, and of that, \$274 billion were designated toward specific COVID-19 response efforts.

We are writing to encourage California to use that funding to invest in research that focuses on infection rates and transmission dynamics among populations that are in essential designated professions, typically hard-to-reach and may have increased risk factors, such as farmers, farmworkers and food processing workers. California is the largest agricultural state in the nation, with the largest population of farmworkers in the nation, and as Members of the House Agriculture Committee, we know how important maintaining the food supply chain and protecting our agricultural workers is in maintaining our nation's public health, economic security and national security. Farmworkers constitute an essential workforce. Yet, we have heard reports that they face difficulties being able to socially distance at the farms they work at, during transportation, and in housing. Many already suffer from existing health disparities and access to care.

For the reasons above, we strongly encourage you to use funding to invest in testing studies that can assess, in real time, disease transmission among this population, as well as provide farmers and farmworkers with public health information and resources. Farmers, farmworkers, packing houses, and food processing workers together play a vital and indispensable role in providing fresh produce, dairy products, meat and many other foods to California, the nation, and to the world. We stand ready to continue to advocate for the federal resources necessary to support nation-wide and state-wide recovery strategies so that our communities remain able to protect and treat our most vulnerable, as we continue our efforts to defeat this virus. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or if you need additional information. We appreciate your consideration of this request and thank you again for your dedication to improving the lives and well-being of so many.

Sincerely,



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress