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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

I write today with serious concerns about the Trump Administration's plans to end support for community-based testing sites across the country on June 30th. As new cases of COVID-19 increase each day, we must expand testing capacity in Wisconsin and other states in order to slow the spread of the virus. Therefore, I urge you to continue funding the community-based testing sites and work with state and local leaders to increase testing capacity and accessibility across the country.

These community-based testing sites are located in our nation's COVID-19 hot-spots. More than ever, these areas are in critical need of testing. In my district in Wisconsin we have seen new COVID-19 cases spike in La Crosse and Eau Claire counties as the state continues to reopen. The Public Health Department in La Crosse County has reported a 607% increase in new cases. Now is not the time to decrease testing capacity or abandon federal support for COVID-19 testing.

I am deeply concerned that any efforts to slow COVID-19 testing will only put more lives at risk. Reducing access to testing will not reduce the amount of people infected by the virus. It will only make it more difficult for Wisconsinites, and people across the nation, to get a prompt diagnosis and the treatment they need. We must prioritize testing for COVID-19 to slow the transmission of the disease and reduce the risks it poses to our communities.

Once again, I urge you to continue funding for community-based testing sites across the country and work with states on expanding COVID-19 testing. I appreciate your attention to this critical matter and look forward to hearing back from you in the coming days.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

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