RON KIND
THIRD DISTRICT, WISCONSIN
SENIOR WHIP
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

LA CROSSE OFFICE
205 5TH AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE 400
LA CROSSE, WI 54601
(608) 782-2558 FAX: (608) 782-4588
TTY: (608) 782-1173

WEBSITE: kind.house.gov

October 1, 2020

Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

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

Dear Administrator Gaynor and Secretary Azar,

I write today to again urge you to send additional support to Wisconsin to ensure our health care providers have the resources they need to address the alarming surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. I wrote to you on September 15, 2020, urging you to send additional resources to Wisconsin in response to the significant spread of the virus in our state. That letter went unanswered and we have continued to see a rapid rise in cases and hospitalizations.

Over the weekend, a record number of people in Wisconsin were hospitalized for COVID-19. Today, 683 coronavirus patients are hospitalized in the state, including 198 patients in intensive care. On Wednesday, 27 people in Wisconsin died from COVID-19.

The virus is continuing to spread rapidly across the state. Over the last week, our average new case count was higher than it has ever been with more than 2,000 people testing positive for the virus every day. We know this exponential rise in COVID-19 cases will almost certainly lead to more hospitalizations in the coming weeks. Our medical providers at the frontline of this crisis need adequate resources to safely care for these patients.

Lack of national leadership about social distancing and mask wearing has hindered our state's ability to stop the spread of COVID-19. Our hospitals and health care providers have done their due diligence to prepare for this rise in cases by securing personal protective equipment and putting surge capacity plans into place. Now our federal leaders must step-up to ensure that our state maintains an adequate supply of PPE and that our providers have access to testing supplies so they can quickly identify new COVID-19 cases. It is also critical to extend this support to our long-term care facilities to protect our residents who are most vulnerable to COVID-19.

I once again urge you to provide additional resources to the state of Wisconsin, local governments, and our health care providers in order to combat this surge in cases. I appreciate your attention to this matter and request a response within five business days.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

EAU CLAIRE OFFICE
316 N. BARSTOW ST., SUITE C
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703
(715) 831-9214 FAX: (715) 831-9272

DISTRICT TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-888-442-8040
TTY: 1-888-880-9180

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE
1502 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5506 FAX (202) 225-5739