

# Our coronavirus response must include disabled and low-income people.

We are *all* in this together.

Our policies must not discriminate. Disabled and low-income people must be included in every policy, every fund, every new law. That's why we've written a list of demands to ensure that emergency legislation for COVID-19 is fair and equitable for everyone.

Your voice matters. Please help us reach decision-makers in Congress.

**Please read and share, urgently.**

## **DEMAND #1:**

### **Financial assistance must treat disabled and low-income people fairly**

- Economic stimulus must be easily and equitably available to low-income and disabled individuals.
- We must raise or eliminate asset limits for people with disabilities and older adults in Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, SNAP, and other

means-tested programs — so their benefits will not be at risk from the stimulus

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**DEMAND #2:**

**We must ensure that sick people can stay home without risking their jobs**

- Ensure paid sick days for **all** workers.

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**DEMAND #3:**

**We must ensure that people can stay home to care for their loved ones**

- Ensure paid leave provisions include caregivers who can't work because they are caring for an adult child with a disability or aging family member whose program has closed or care worker is sick

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**DEMAND #4:**

**We must help disabled and low-income people keep their homes**

- Increase funding for programs that provide housing assistance to elderly, low-income, and disabled people.
- Pass legislation to stop evictions during the pandemic, including the Eviction Crisis Act.

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**DEMAND #5:**

## **We must help people experiencing homelessness, including through increased funding**

- Immediately provide an increase in Emergency Solutions Grants to help people experiencing homelessness.

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**DEMAND #6:**

## **We must ensure healthcare is equitable**

- We need a statement from Congress regarding rationing of care to ensure that when rationing treatment begins, decisions about how medical treatment should be allocated are made without discriminating based on disability. The National Council on Disability has already raised concerns about this issue in [a letter](#) to HHS' Office of Civil Rights.

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#### DEMAND #7:

## We must ensure freedom from age and disability discrimination during every step of this crisis

- Ensure the rights of individuals with disabilities and older adults, to be free from discrimination on the basis of disability or age in programs and activities, are protected during all phases of disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.

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#### DEMAND #8:

## We must ensure disabled and low-income people can get the healthcare, supplies and medicine they need, safely

- Ensure that all testing **and treatment** for COVID-19 is provided at no cost for everyone, whether insured or not.
- Ensure that everyone can access medication and supplies refills for 90 days, including allowances for partial fills and controlled substances, **without** cost-sharing and **with** financial assistance to allow for self-isolation for at-risk people with disabilities.

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**DEMAND #9:**

**We must immediately begin massive production of ventilators, to save lives, and prevent rationing**

- Congress must appropriate funds specifically for ramping up production of **ventilators**.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services should be given authority to expedite bringing new production facilities online and do everything possible to mobilize a “whole-of-country” response to meet these production challenges.

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**DEMAND #10:**

**We must protect healthcare workers and make sure they have the equipment they need to do their work safely**

- Congress must appropriate funds specifically for ramping up production of **Personal Protective Equipment** including masks, gowns, shields, gloves, suits, and other equipment to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to our healthcare workers.

- The Secretary of Health and Human Services should be given authority to expedite bringing new production facilities online and do everything possible to mobilize a “whole-of-country” response to meet these production challenges.

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**DEMAND #11:**

**Medicaid must support, and pay for, the services disabled people rely on to live at home, in their communities**

- Increase federal Medicaid funding so that state governments have the resources they need to provide care for people with disabilities.
- Pass the [Corona Virus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities](#) Act, to fund Home & Community Based Services – programs that provide the direct support that enables aging adults and people with disabilities to live at home.
- Pass the Ensuring Direct Access to Direct Support Professionals Act (S. 3220/H.R. 5443)
- Make the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program, which empowers disabled people to move out of institutions back into their own homes, permanent.

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**DEMAND #12:**

## **We must keep disabled people from being forced to live in institutions**

- Provide states with resources they need to ensure that even during this crisis, people with disabilities have the supports they need to remain in the community and are not forced into institutional or other group settings in violation of their civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, and at increased risk to their health.

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**DEMAND #13:**

## **We must ensure disability civil rights protections are fully protected**

- Rights are not negotiable. Do not allow any weakening of the protections of the ADA for businesses or in the building of new facilities if necessary.

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**DEMAND #14:**

## **We must guarantee the right to vote, including the right of disabled people to vote**

- Provide additional funding to states to ensure accessible voting as states are moving to absentee and mail-in voting.

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### **DEMAND #15:**

## **We must safeguard the right to education for disabled students, guaranteeing IDEA protections**

- Ensure that any legislation to support access to virtual education and other supports are inclusive of the unique needs of people with disabilities, including requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

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