Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Robert Kadlec, M.D.
Assistant Secretary
The Office of Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar and Assistant Secretary Kadlec,

We are writing to thank the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) for the immediate attention to Colorado's request for critical equipment and supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) response and to request quick delivery and an update once the supplies arrive. On March 10, 2020, Colorado Governor Jared Polis declared a state of emergency and there is confirmed community spread in an increasing number of counties in Colorado.

We have heard from our state and local public health leaders that additional equipment and supplies are necessary to respond to the growing COVID-19 outbreak in the state of Colorado. The state's request for assistance included personal protective equipment, which plays a critical role in the ability to test for and treat COVID-19.

We look forward to continuing to serve as a collaborative partner in this effort and thank HHS and ASPR for their consideration. As this outbreak continues, we request future consideration to ensure the state of Colorado and local communities have the supplies and equipment they need to address the COVID-19 outbreak. Of particular importance, we must proactively ensure that CO is prepared with a sufficient number of ventilators as the number of cases continue to rise. Please respond with an update on the status of the current delivery and confirmation once supplies from the SNS reach the state.

Sincerely,

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

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