

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2021

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to announce the beginning of bipartisan discussions to consider lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic response, improving the nation's public health infrastructure and medical preparedness and response programs and capabilities at the local, state, territorial, Tribal, and federal levels.

Specifically, we plan to explore a range of legislative proposals, including those regarding:

- Strategies for strengthening and modernizing federal public health and medical preparedness and response systems and programs, including infrastructure, to better support states, localities, and Tribes.
- Ensuring sufficient public health and medical capacity to continue providing critical services to at-risk populations. This includes applying lessons learned from COVID-19 to address health disparities in future public health preparedness and response efforts.
- Strengthening readiness within the medical countermeasure enterprise to ensure that countermeasures can be rapidly identified and advanced through clinical development and manufacturing and appropriately deployed and distributed when a new public health threat is identified.
- Modernizing the development of medical countermeasures to address public health threats.
- Improving and securing the supply chain for the U.S.'s critical medical supplies needed to swiftly address public health threats.

In the coming months, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will review and consider legislative proposals in these areas as part of its effort to bring forward a bipartisan public health and medical preparedness package. We intend to consider this bipartisan legislation before the Committee in early fall and look forward to working with Members of the Committee, our Senate colleagues, public health and medical experts, and other relevant stakeholders throughout this process.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator