

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

As the Senate considers the next coronavirus relief package, we urge you to include requirements to ensure maximum telework for federal employees and contractors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal employees and contractors have been teleworking successfully throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency, many of whom have been keeping vital services running and implementing relief measures to support the economy and stop the spread of COVID-19.

As new waves of COVID-19 cases continue to hit areas across the country, it is especially important for federal agencies to have a clear mandate that sets a positive example for employers to keep their workforces and communities safe. Plans to bring federal employees back into offices prematurely would threaten to erase the progress made against the coronavirus and increase community spread.<sup>1</sup>

All federal employees and contractors who can perform their duties remotely should be doing so. Agencies should enable telework for as many federal workers and contractor personnel as possible, and should continue to maximize telework throughout the pandemic. Telework protects not only federal employees from the spread of COVID-19, but also their families and the communities across the country in which they work.

We appreciate your past support for federal employees and the funding provided in the CARES Act to help agencies expand telework. We ask that you continue this support by requiring maximum telework in the federal government during the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the next coronavirus relief package.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

/s/ Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

---

<sup>1</sup> Zach Montague, "As Coronavirus Cases Rise, the Federal Work Force Heads Back to the Office," *The New York Times*, July 6, 2020, available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/06/us/politics/coronavirus-federal-government.html>.

/s/ Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

/s/ Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

/s/ Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator