

Steve Daines

UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR MONTANA

Senator Daines COVID Relief Top- Line Wins

Healthcare Provisions:

- **Vaccine Distribution** - \$8.75 billion to plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, monitor, and track coronavirus vaccines to ensure broad-based distribution, access, and vaccine coverage. Of this amount, \$4.5 billion goes directly to states, localities, and territories; \$210 million is transferred to the Indian Health Service; and \$300 million is for high-risk and underserved populations
- **Critical Funding for Vaccine and Therapeutic Development, Production, and Purchase**- \$19.695 billion to continue supporting critical efforts to ensure Americans receive vaccines and therapeutics in record time
- **Testing** - \$22.4 billion for testing, contact tracing, and surveillance. Of this amount, \$2.5 billion is for high risk and underserved populations and \$790 million is transferred to the Indian Health Service
- **BARDA** - \$19.695 billion for vaccine, therapeutic, and diagnostic development
- **Funding for PPE & Critical Medical Supplies**- \$3.25 billion is provided to secure PPE and other supplies to support availability of these critical supplies during the pandemic.
- **Funding for more COVID-19 Research**- \$1.25 billion, with \$1.15 billion for research into the long-term effects of COVID-19 and \$100 million to support the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics program
- **Provider Relief Fund** - \$3 billion Language is included directing 85% of unobligated balances or funds recovered to be for future distributions. Language is also included clarifying the definition of lost revenue for hospitals and allows hospital systems to transfer COVID funds among hospitals in their system.
- **Lessens the impact of significant payment reductions**- which are the result of a regulatory change and slated to take effect January 1, 2021, that disproportionately

hurt certain specialties. Invests \$3 billion to increase payments to all physicians and professionals for all services by 3.75 percent throughout 2021.

- **Eliminates Medicare restrictions-** to allow all beneficiaries to receive mental health services through telehealth on a permanent basis.
- **Promotes use of real-time benefit tools in Medicare-** this enables physicians to work with beneficiaries to find the lowest cost prescription drug at the time of prescribing.
- **Temporary suspension of Medicare sequestration-** set to expire on December 31, 2020, increasing payment to all providers by 2 percent for first three months of 2021.
- **Addresses Substance Abuse and Mental Health-** \$4.25 billion for substance abuse and mental health treatment and prevention. This includes robust investments in the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention block grants. The bill also invests in suicide prevention, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, and targets funding to individual behavioral health providers.

Unemployment Provisions:

- **\$300/week supplemental unemployment insurance money (FPUC)-** Begins December 26, 2020 and ends March 14, 2021. Administered in the same fashion as the \$600/week from CARES
- **Extends unemployment system for non-traditional workers such as self-employed and gig workers (PUA)-** Extends program to March 14 and increases the number of weeks someone can claim benefits under PUA from 30 to 50
- **Extends Emergency Unemployment Relief for Governmental Entities and Nonprofit Organizations through March 14**
- **Makes improvements to program integrity-** Within 30 days states must have a system in place to address workers who refuse work to instead remain on UI. It also increases requirements on states to verify identity and self-employment/wage verification of PUA recipients
- **State Technology and Modernization-** \$1 billion for states to modernize to prevent fraud

Economy/Tax Provisions:

- **Replenishes the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)-** \$284 billion to help keep small business open and workers on the payroll. PPP has helped 24,000 small businesses in MT.

- **Expands PPP eligibility-** to include certain 501(c)(6) organizations, including Chambers of Commerce, Destination Marketing Organizations, and Outdoor Recreation Organizations with 300 or fewer employees. This was a very specific item Senator Daines worked to include.
- **Extends the Payroll Support Program-** up to \$16 billion (this is Corey, but we like it).
- **Save our Stages Act-** \$15 billion for live venues and independent movie theaters
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)-** \$20 billion to replenish the EIDL Advance grant program
- **EIDL Forgiveness Act** – removes the requirement that EIDL Advance grants must be subtracted from PPP forgiveness.
- **Craft Beverage Modernization Tax Reform Act-** Senator Daines bipartisan bill that provides tax certainty for Montana breweries and distilleries
- **New Markets Tax Credit-** a five year extension, a program that mobilizes private-sector resources to help finance projects
- **Employee Retention Tax Credit-** enhanced and extended through June 30, 2021, which will help employers keep their employees on the job
- **\$600 Stimulus Check** – payment for both adults and their child dependents (e.g. a family of four would receive \$2,400).
- **Extension of Carbon Capture Tax Credit (45Q)** – a two-year extension of the tax credit for carbon capture, utilization and storage, which will help protect existing and create new energy jobs.

Education Provisions:

- **Funding for Schools, Teachers & Students Navigating COVID-19-** \$82 billion to support students, teachers, schools, and families with additional education needs related to COVID, including:
 - **Governors Emergency Relief (GEER) Fund-** \$4.1 billion
 - **Elementary and Secondary Education Relief (ESSER) Fund-** \$54.3 billion
 - **Higher Education Relief (HEER) Fund-** \$22.7 billion
- **Supports Child Care-** \$10 billion to provide additional assistance to working families, and support child care providers experiencing increased operating expenses and decreased revenue related to COVID-19 (NOT the Ernst bill we cosponsored)

Indian Affairs Provisions:

- **The CRF Extension**

- **Health and Indian Services-** \$1 billion, \$790 million from a CDC Bucket and \$210 million from another
- **Indian Country rental assistance-** \$800 million dedicated funding
- **Indian Country broadband-** \$1 billion
- **Tribal fisheries assistance-** \$30 million
- **Right to compete for \$125 million for health / behavioral health grants**
- **Eligible for the \$10 billion in Child Care Development Block grants**
- **Bureau of Indian Education-** \$819 million
- **Eligible for PPP**
- **.5% of Education Stabilization Fund 60/40 BIE school / Tribal colleges**
- **Tribal Transportation Program (roads improvements)-** \$114,568,862

Housing Provisions:

- **Emergency Rental Assistance-** \$25 billion
- **Eviction Moratorium Extension-** Through January 31, 2021

Agricultural Provisions:

- **Critical Support for Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by the Pandemic-** \$13 billion to support agriculture, including over \$11 billion in relief to farmers and ranchers impacted by the pandemic's impact on commodity prices and supply chains.

Transportation Provisions:

- **AMTRAK-** \$1B in emergency relief, will prevent further service cuts and/or furloughs
- **Motorcoach Industry-** \$2 billion, following our longstanding support of this initiative

Telecommunications Provisions:

- **Rip and Replace:** \$1.9 billion, a huge win for small rural carriers. Senator Daines has been very active including writing a letter to leadership asking for its inclusion

USPS Provisions:

- **USPS-** \$10 billion CARES Loan (not yet utilized) converted into a grant