

July 14, 2020

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

As you continue your work on critical legislation to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, I write to you today to urge your support for robust funding that will help accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. Finding a cure to this virus will help save lives, restore confidence in our communities to safely reopen, and jumpstart our economy to reach the heights it did before the pandemic.

As you know, I worked with our Senate colleagues to secure \$10 billion in the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to accelerate the development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. These funds were crucial for the creation of the Administration's Operation Warp Speed (OWS), which is designed to deliver 300 million doses of a safe, effective vaccine for COVID-19 by January 2021, with the first doses delivered as early as October 2020. So far, this initial investment has enabled OWS to advance clinical trials for several promising vaccine candidates and increase domestic manufacturing capabilities to distribute COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics to the American people, but more funding will be needed to continue advancing the goals of OWS.

In Montana, we are unfortunately experiencing spikes in COVID-19 cases and fatalities. Most recently, we saw a deadly COVID-19 outbreak in an assisted living facility that has resulted in 86 positive cases and seven deaths to date. These tragedies highlight the enormous need for Congress to ensure our federal agencies have the resources necessary to accomplish the goals of OWS. By delivering a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to the American people, our country and economy will be able to recover from the pandemic, lives will be saved, and Americans will be able to return to work safely.

Thank you for your continued leadership during this public health emergency. I look forward to our continued work together to combat this crisis.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator