



## United States Senate

July 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer,

As the Senate begins consideration of the next coronavirus relief bill, I ask that you include the attached amendment that would condition direct assistance to states and local governments on having mask requirements in place.

It is clear that significant action is necessary to stop the rapidly escalating spread of the coronavirus across the country. Research shows that masks reduce transmission of the virus both for the mask wearer as well as those around them. CDC Director Dr. Redfield has said that we could bring the surge in COVID-19 cases under control within two months if we adopt 'universal masking' to get everybody to wear a mask right now. Businesses like Walmart, Kohl's and Kroger now require masks, and countries that are successfully controlling this virus require masks.

While at least 28 states have mask requirements in place, the Administration and several governors have still refused this simple but powerful way to stop the spread of disease. Congress must step in to ensure our constituents are protected. As we negotiate much-needed direct assistance to state and local governments that are facing massive deficits as a result of the pandemic, we should include a provision to condition that assistance upon having mask requirements in place.

Wearing masks in public must be universal and mandatory if we are ever to get this pandemic under control. Thank you for attention to this request, and I look forward to working with you to develop the Senate's next coronavirus relief bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

Enclosure: Draft amendment conditioning state and local aid on mask requirements

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To ensure that States and units of local government require the wearing of face coverings in public to be eligible for direct payments.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 2d Sess.**

(no.) \_\_\_\_\_

(title) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by \_\_\_\_\_

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

2 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REQUIREMENT TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—A State or unit of local govern-

4 ment shall not be eligible to receive direct payments under

5 [section \_\_\_\_\_] if such State or unit of local government

6 does not have in effect a clear and enforceable require-

7 ment, subject to appropriate medical, disability, and public

8 safety exemptions, that face coverings shall be worn in

9 high-risk situations, such as those described in subsection

10 (b).

11 (b) HIGH-RISK SITUATIONS.—A State or unit of local

12 government shall determine what constitutes a high-risk

1 situation for purposes of subsection (a), such as when an  
2 individual is—

3 (1) inside of, or in line to enter, any indoor  
4 public space;

5 (2) obtaining services from the health care sec-  
6 tor in settings including a hospital, pharmacy, med-  
7 ical clinic, laboratory, physician or dental office, vet-  
8 erinary clinic, or blood bank;

9 (3) waiting for or riding on public transpor-  
10 tation or paratransit or while in a taxi, private car  
11 service, or ride-sharing vehicle;

12 (4) engaged in work, whether at the workplace  
13 or performing work off-site, when interacting in-per-  
14 son with any member of the public;

15 (5) working in any space visited by members of  
16 the public, regardless of whether anyone from the  
17 public is present at the time;

18 (6) working in any space where food is pre-  
19 pared or packaged for sale or distribution to others;

20 (7) working in or walking through common  
21 areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and  
22 parking facilities;

23 (8) working in any room or enclosed area where  
24 other individuals (except for members of the individ-

1       ual's own household or residence) are present when  
2       unable to physically distance;

3           (9) driving or operating any public transpor-  
4       tation or paratransit vehicle, taxi, or private car  
5       service or ride-sharing vehicle when passengers are  
6       present; and

7           (10) outdoors in public spaces when maintain-  
8       ing a physical distance of 6 feet from individuals  
9       who are not members of the same household or resi-  
10      dence is not feasible.