



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6502

May 21, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Chairman
National Governors Association
444 N. Capitol Street
Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Vice Chairman
National Governors Association
444 N. Capitol Street
Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Governors Hogan & Cuomo:

On April 10, I wrote to you to ask that you encourage your fellow governors to direct public health officials in every state, every territory, and the District of Columbia to collect demographic data that will help us better understand the racial disparities occurring with the COVID-19 pandemic. I know that both of you have been working extraordinarily hard to combat the spread of COVID-19 in Maryland and New York, and I am grateful for the leadership you have displayed in this common effort. Now that several more weeks have passed, with more Americans infected with COVID-19 and states having had time to develop additional capacity for testing and data collection, I write to ask once more that you help encourage the broader collection of data on racial disparities in the rate of infection and patient outcomes.

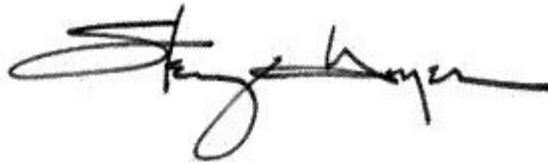
As a number of states begin the phased reopening of businesses and public spaces, it is critical that governors and public health officials have access to all the relevant data about local COVID-19 hotspots and communities at higher risk. It is important to ensure that communities experiencing higher rates of infection and fatality are allocated sufficient resources, such as tests, ventilators, personal protective equipment, and hospital beds. We cannot do that if we do not collect this data in the first place. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported earlier this week that of the 1.1 million COVID-19 cases reported to CDC officials, race is not known in more than half of them. At the same time, many states have been drawing on CDC and other data regarding the increase or decline of COVID-19 cases as they consider reopening plans.

I urge you to make this issue a priority. Without looking at the full picture of this pandemic and its impact across different communities, we cannot safely begin to reopen large parts of our economy. We know from the demographic data that has been collected that African American and Latino communities are disproportionately affected, with higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and fatality. It is crucial to any national response and recovery effort that every

single state, every territory, and the District of Columbia all commit to collecting information on this pandemic's racial disparities and ensuring that such data informs how this crisis is addressed.

Thank you both, once again, for your consideration of this request as well as for your ongoing efforts at the state and national levels to meet the challenge of this pandemic. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that Congress is partnering with the states to address this crisis in the most responsible and effective way possible.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steny Hoyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

STENY H. HOYER
House Majority Leader