

The Heroes Act features many Democratic health priorities in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic

Key health care provisions



Strengthens testing and contact tracing programs by providing \$75 billion in grants to public health departments and workforce agencies, among other requirements to ensure cultural inclusion and accountability



Provides an additional \$100 billion to the Health Care Provider Relief Fund and improves the Accelerated and Advance Payment Program



Invests in public health infrastructure by enhancing vaccine manufacturing capacity and planning for its distribution, among other provisions to support the pharmaceutical supply chain



Supports states' Medicaid programs by increasing the FMAP by 14 percentage points through June 30, 2021; increases FMAP by 10 percentage points for patients in home and community-based care



Eliminates cost sharing for COVID-19 treatment for Medicare, Medicaid, private health insurance, TRICARE, Veterans Affairs, and the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program; Allows state Medicaid programs to cover treatment costs for uninsured patients



Offers expanded health coverage options by fully subsidizing the cost of COBRA and furloughed workers' premiums; establishes special enrollment periods for Medicare and ACA marketplaces



Protects nursing home patients by offering states funding to deploy strike teams to help facilities with infection control; incentivizes the establishment COVID-19-specific nursing home facilities



Supports mental health research by directing the NIMH to investigate the mental health consequences of COVID-19; provides grants to support substance use disorder and behavioral health needs