

President Trump's recent executive actions fail to provide needed relief from the pandemic and recession and instead create confusion and uncertainty. The Trump Administration and Congress must go back to the negotiating table and work to pass a relief package that meets the needs of people in our state.

This crisis is the biggest of our lifetimes, and the President's executive actions completely leave out many of the most immediate challenges facing West Virginia families and our state and local governments. Only Congress can pass a package that is comprehensive enough to address this unprecedented crisis. Here's what the President's actions leave out and where they fall far short:

Health Care

LEFT OUT OF PROPOSAL

The Reality: An estimated 130,000 West Virginians have lost employer-based health coverage since the crisis began and about two-thirds or 82,000 of them are eligible for Medicaid. Without an additional FMAP increase in the next relief package, state Medicaid programs will be at risk of facing cuts right when the program is needed the most.

Unemployment Provisions

FALLS SHORT

Executive Order: Cuts federal unemployment supplement in half to \$300/week through a complicated scheme that places significant burdens and costs on states, and only funds 4-6 weeks of benefits.

The Reality: Unemployment in West Virginia is at record levels. Reducing the unemployment insurance supplement through a complicated scheme that places huge burdens and costs on states is not the path forward. Further, it doesn't provide any certainty to West Virginia families or bring enough economic activity to our state to address our state and local economic crises.

Cash Assistance

LEFT OUT OF PROPOSAL

The Reality: The House-passed HEROES Act would provide \$1,200 per adult plus \$1,200 per dependent.

K-12 Education and Childcare

LEFT OUT OF PROPOSAL

The Reality: The School Superintendents Association estimated that complying with CDC recommendations could cost schools an additional \$490 per student, amounting to a total of \$1.8 million per school district.

56% of child care slots in West Virginia are at risk of being lost due to this crisis without federal support.

Food Security

LEFT OUT OF PROPOSAL

The Reality: Food insecurity is spiking in West Virginia. The House-passed HEROES Act includes a 15% increase in maximum SNAP benefits, which would send an additional \$8 million in SNAP benefits to West Virginia families each month to help close food security gaps.

State & Local Fiscal Aid

LEFT OUT OF PROPOSAL

The Reality: States are facing a collective \$555 billion budget shortfall through FY2022, and that doesn't include the crises in cities and counties. The CARES Act allocated \$150 billion to states, leaving a gap of \$400 billion. City and state budgets fund public services, health care, and provide critical jobs. Failing to provide additional relief for state and local governments will only prolong our recession and worsen the harms faced by West Virginia families.

Housing

FALLS SHORT

Executive Order: Takes no official stance on extending eviction moratorium or providing rental assistance. Defers to HHS and CDC to decide what measures to implement.

The Reality: In July over 30% of West Virginian adults either missed the previous month's rent or mortgage payment, or have slight or no confidence that their household can pay next month's rent or mortgage on time. Without a real eviction moratorium and rental assistance in place, thousands are at risk of becoming unhoused.

Sources

Americans for Tax Fairness, West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, Center for American Progress, and Economic Policy Institute