

The COVID-19 economic crisis is bigger than any other in our lifetime, yet the HEALS Act fails to adequately address the crisis that West Virginia families and our local and state governments are facing.

CONGRESS MUST STEP UP AND PROVIDE A RESPONSE THAT MATCHES THE NEED FACED IN OUR COMMUNITIES. **THE HEALS ACT DOES NOT DO THAT.**

UNDER THE CURRENT SENATE PROPOSAL:

Unemployment Provisions

Current Proposal: Reduces federal UI supplement to \$200/week through October 5.

The Reality: Unemployment in West Virginia is at record levels. Reducing the unemployment insurance supplement by \$400/week is expected to result in 15,000 jobs lost over the next year and result in approximately \$1.54 billion lost from our state's economy.



Health Care

Current Proposal: No additional Medicaid funding for states.

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 COVID-19 relief package, state Medicaid programs will be at risk of facing cuts right when the program is needed the most.



Cash Assistance

Current Proposal: Additional one-time \$1,200 payment per adult and \$500 per dependent.

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



Food Security

Current Proposal: No additional resources for SNAP, the nation's most effective food security program.

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.



K-12 Education

Current Proposal: \$70 billion for public education nationwide, but schools must re-open to receive 2/3 of funds.

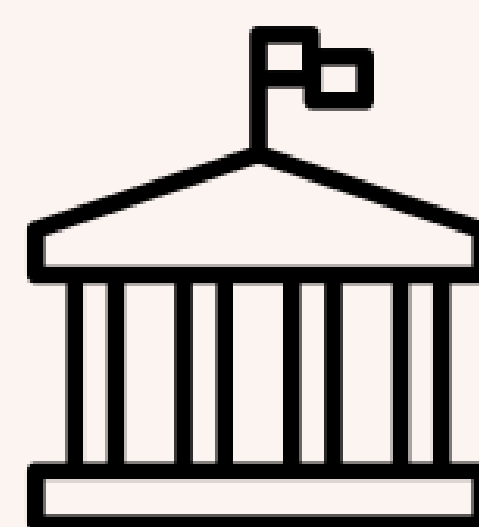
The Reality: The School Superintendents Association estimated that complying with CDC recommendations could cost schools an additional \$490 per student, amounting to a total of \$1.8 million per school district.



State & Local Fiscal Aid

Current Proposal: No general relief funds for state and local governments.

The Reality: States are facing a collective \$555 billion budget shortfall through FY2022, and that doesn't address 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

Current Proposal: No extension of the federal eviction moratorium and no protections from utility shutoffs.

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 an eviction moratorium in place, thousands are at risk of becoming unhoused.



Sources

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