



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Josh Kaul  
Attorney General

Room 114 East, State Capitol  
PO Box 7857  
Madison WI 53707-7857  
(608) 266-1221  
TTY 1-800-947-3529

March 24, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Douglas.L.Hoelscher@who.eop.gov  
william.f.crozer@who.eop.gov

The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Shortage of critical supplies

Dear Mr. President:

We write regarding the immediate need across the country for vital support and to urge you to fully utilize the Defense Production Act to prioritize production of masks, respirators, and other critical items needed to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

We are on the brink of catastrophic consequences resulting from the continued shortage of critical supplies. The federal government must act decisively now and use its sweeping authority to get as many needed supplies produced as soon as possible for distribution as quickly as possible.

News reports from around the country have highlighted shortages in equipment and testing, with headlines like *'At War with No Ammo': Doctors Say Shortage of Protective Gear Is Dire*<sup>1</sup> and *There Is a Shortage of Coronavirus Tests in Wisconsin, and Even Health Care Workers Are Having a Hard Time Getting One.*<sup>2</sup> Reports like these are consistent with our understanding of the supply shortages our jurisdictions and others across the country are facing or may soon face.

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<sup>1</sup> Andrew Jacobs et al., *'At War with No Ammo': Doctors Say Shortage of Protective Gear Is Dire*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 19, 2020), <http://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/19/health/coronavirus-masks-shortage.html>.

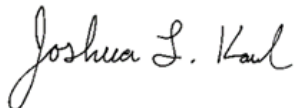
<sup>2</sup> Rory Linnane et al., *There Is a Shortage of Coronavirus Tests in Wisconsin, and Even Health Care Workers Are Having a Hard Time Getting One*, Milwaukee J. Sentinel (Mar. 17, 2020), <https://jsonline.com/story/news/local/2020/03/17/covid-19-test-shortage-how-many-wisconsin-coronavirus-cases-unknown-people-have-milwaukee/5062765002/>.

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There is a particularly acute need to dramatically increase (1) health care capacity; (2) the supply of personal protective equipment for health care providers and law enforcement and other first responders; and (3) COVID-19 testing capacity. Our health care system needs more ventilators and ICU beds. Those on the front lines of the response to the coronavirus need personal protective equipment such as N95 respirators, surgical masks, face shields, eye protection, gloves, gowns, sanitizers, cleaning supplies, and thermometers. And there is a nationwide need to increase the supply of the reagents and swabs used for COVID-19 testing so that testing can be expanded substantially and, in turn, better-informed medical decisions can be made, public health officials can more effectively tailor their decisions to local conditions, and the coronavirus can be better understood and defeated sooner.

It is imperative that you fully use the Defense Production Act immediately to help get critical resources into our States. We appreciate and support this effort to get supplies to those who need them. We emphasize, however, that a far-greater volume of supplies is needed and that the federal government must act with urgency and clarity to get those supplies to health care providers and law enforcement and other first responders as soon as possible.

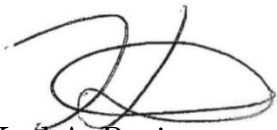
Thank you,



Joshua L. Kaul  
Wisconsin Attorney General



William Tong  
Connecticut Attorney General



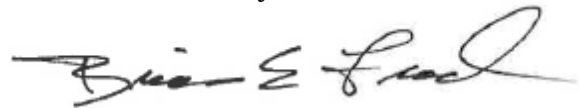
Karl A. Racine  
District of Columbia Attorney General



Xavier Becerra  
California Attorney General



Kathleen Jennings  
Delaware Attorney General



Brian Frosh  
Maryland Attorney General

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Maura Healey  
Massachusetts Attorney General



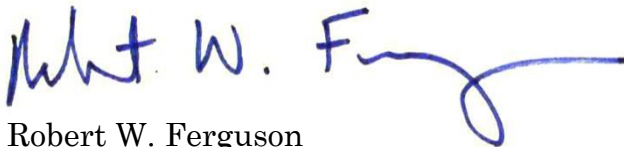
Letitia James  
New York Attorney General



Ellen F. Rosenblum  
Oregon Attorney General



T.J. Donovan  
Vermont Attorney General



Robert W. Ferguson  
Washington Attorney General



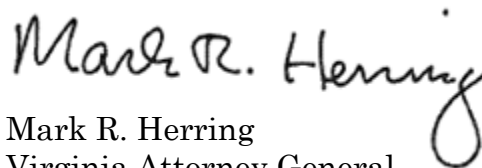
Keith Ellison  
Minnesota Attorney General



Josh Stein  
North Carolina Attorney General



Josh Shapiro  
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Mark R. Herring  
Virginia Attorney General



Aaron D. Ford  
Nevada Attorney General