



May 10, 2020

Dear Democratic Colleague,

On this Mother's Day, I send warmest wishes to the moms and grandmothers in all of our lives. My mother wrote of her mother: "Mother, I think of you – Guardian Angel of my childhood."

Lovingly, as we honor our mothers, and solemnly, as we face the biggest catastrophe in our nation's history, I am writing to share some Mother's Day reflections.

Setting aside how we got here, we must approach this tragedy with the deepest humanity. All of our hearts are broken by the over 80,000 Americans who have lost their lives and the over 1.3 million who have been infected by the coronavirus. The number of 33 million Americans who have filed for unemployment insurance is almost unimaginable.

This is a moment when our fellow Americans are in deep suffering. We must have empathy for our heroes, the health care workers, for how exhausted and how stressed they are in doing their jobs. Add to that they may lose their jobs in this economy. We must also empathize with the pain of families who do not know where their next meals are coming from and how to pay next month's rent. It is imperative that we address the needs of the American people with clarity in how we proceed.

We can all agree that we must open our economy as quickly as we can, but we must do so based on science and data. The key to opening that door is testing, tracing, treatment and social distancing. Overwhelmingly, the scientific community agrees.

Americans also agree that we owe our heroes in the fight against coronavirus an enormous debt of gratitude – our health care, first responders, teachers, transit, food and other essential workers who risk their lives to save lives and who could now lose their jobs. To do that, we must act boldly to support state and local entities to address coronavirus-related outlays and lost revenue.

We all agree that we must put more money in the pockets of the American people. This is not only necessary for their survival but also is a stimulus to the economy. Direct payments, unemployment insurance, rental and mortgage help and student loan assistance are essential to relieve the fear that many families are facing.

The Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank has told us to "Think Big" because interest rates are so low. We must "Think Big" For The People now, because if we don't, it will cost more later. Not acting is the most expensive course.

In this critical moment for our country, we must demonstrate a clear strategy of testing, tracing, and treatment. We must honor our heroes in the coronavirus crisis with support, not just words. We must address the pain of families who have lost jobs through no fault of their own.

To do this, I ask all of our House Members to “Think Big” For The People. On this Mother’s Day, I ask you to take an extra moment to understand the numbers we are seeing, which are the most overwhelming in our lifetimes. These numbers require action that we have never had to take before. This is an historic challenge and therefore momentous opportunity for us to meet the needs of all Americans.

Let us pray for those who are affected, let us pray for a cure and a vaccine, and let us pray to God to continue to bless America.

Sincerely,

Nancy