

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 2, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

Dear Mr. President:

Recent news reports indicate the Administration is poised to request an additional \$30 billion from Congress for its response to COVID-19. While we have supported historic, bipartisan measures in the United States Senate to provide unprecedented investments in vaccines, therapeutics, and testing, it is not yet clear why additional funding is needed.

Since March 2020, the federal government has borrowed trillions of dollars to combat the virus and provide relief to families and businesses. By March 11, 2021, the day you signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act into law, Congress had already approved over [\\$3.8 trillion](#) in COVID-19 relief. All told, the nearly \$6 trillion in spending on COVID-19 is the single greatest expenditure of public funds on one effort in the history of the nation.

However, since passage of the American Rescue Plan in February, questions are mounting about where exactly the additional money has gone.

A recent [investigative report](#) from the *Washington Post* headlined, “‘Immense fraud’ creates immense task for Washington as it tries to tighten scrutiny of \$6 trillion in emergency coronavirus spending” details the federal government’s shocking failure to provide the American public with a faithful accounting of how it has spent its money.

“Nearly two years later, however, the [stimulus data](#) is voluminous yet vexing — for the public and the government alike. The spending portal **does not offer a real-time, detailed view as to the way cities, states, schools, hospitals and others actually have deployed broad swaths of the cash they received.** In education, for example, federal records show more than \$81 billion set aside for school districts in response to the pandemic. Yet **the information is 90 days old in some cases and offers no insight as to what those communities actually did** once they obtained the grants.”

“By 2021, Biden’s top aides intensified the work to improve the oversight process, particularly after the passage of the American Rescue Plan last March. Yet the efforts failed to satisfy lawmakers, federal watchdogs, health professionals and ethics experts, a dozen of whom said in interviews that *they have struggled to answer the most basic questions — including how much money has been spent, and how, in critical areas such as testing.*” (emphasis added)

Before we would consider supporting an additional \$30 billion for COVID-19 relief, Congress must receive a full accounting of how the government has already spent the first \$6 trillion.

In an effort to better understand your reported request for supplemental appropriations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we respectfully ask the Administration to answer the following questions:

1. When does the Administration plan to request an additional \$30 billion in COVID-19 relief funding, and if it does so, what would be the purpose of the request?
2. As of March 3, 2022, how much of the funding made available under the American Rescue Plan remains unspent, unobligated, or undisbursed?
3. As of March 3, 2022, how much of the funding under the American Rescue Plan has been obligated, but not disbursed for more than 6 months?
4. How much money has the government spent to date on vaccines and testing? Please provide a specific list of these expenditures and accompanying metrics used to evaluate their effectiveness.
5. Of the \$350 billion made available under the American Rescue Plan to state and local governments, how much has been used to date for vaccines and testing? Please provide a specific list of these expenditures and accompanying metrics used to evaluate their effectiveness.
6. Does the Administration have plans to make available real-time data about all COVID-19 spending to the public?

We strongly believe Americans should continue to take precautionary measures to protect against the pandemic, and it must be an urgent priority that the trillions of taxpayer dollars already appropriated are being spent effectively.

Sincerely,



Mitt Romney
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Pat Toomey
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Kevin Cramer
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Shelly Moore Capito
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Todd Young
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Richard Burr
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
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Steve Daines
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M. Michael Rounds
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John Hoeven
United States Senator



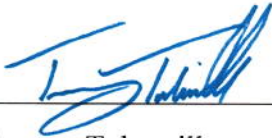
Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator




Mitch McConnell
United States Senator



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



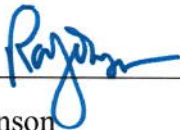
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Roger Wicker
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Josh Hawley
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Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Mike Braun
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John Cornyn
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis
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Cindy Hyde-Smith

Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator

Tim Scott

Tim Scott
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Richard Shelby

Richard Shelby
United States Senator

Tom Cotton

Tom Cotton
United States Senator