

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 22, 2021

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor
State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper,

From the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all looked forward to the day when it will end. Perhaps the single most important tool to end the pandemic is an effective and widely distributed vaccine.

Through several bipartisan legislative packages, Congress authorized and appropriated the necessary resources to develop, test, manufacture, distribute, and administer effective vaccines to end this pandemic. With two FDA approved vaccines already available and several more on the way, we are already seeing the positive results. However, the successful distribution and administration of these vaccines, as you know, depends on the work of state officials.

Since vaccine distribution to states and the first immunizations began, many of our constituents—including local health officials—have contacted us asking how and when they and their loved ones can receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

In the spirit of cooperation and a common desire to bring the COVID-19 pandemic to a close, we ask that you share with us information informing our constituents about North Carolina's plan to distribute and administer vaccines. Specifically, we request the following information:

- What method does the state use to allocate doses and distribute them?
- How often does the state inform health care providers, hospital systems and local health departments of the number of vaccines available to them? Our understanding is officials are given allocations on a week to week basis, which does not provide enough time to plan.
- What is the state's plan to communicate to individuals who may be eligible to receive a dose?
- How does the state distribute and prioritize vaccine allocation among health care providers, hospital systems and local health departments?
- How does the state ensure adequate doses are received in rural and underserved areas?

- What barriers are preventing you from administering vaccines? As an example, we understand local health departments are not receiving funding for hiring surge staff to administer vaccines as appropriated in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020*.
- What is the expected timeline for the state to complete each of the four phases of vaccination?
- Is there anything more we can do as your federal representatives in Congress to assist your efforts?

We appreciate your diligence in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,



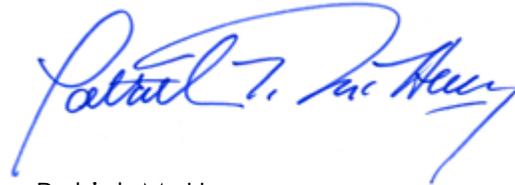
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Dan Bishop
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