

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 17, 2020

Robert Kadlec, M.D., MTM&H, M.S.
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary Kadlec:

We write in support of the state of Wisconsin's request for supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Although we applaud the important public health measures that Governor Tony Evers and state officials have taken to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, confirmed cases continue to rise. In order to ensure that Wisconsin has the necessary medical supplies to respond to this outbreak, Governor Evers has submitted a request for items from the SNS. The state of Wisconsin is running critically low on the supplies that have been requested and need assistance immediately.

As of March 17, Wisconsin had not received any supplies from the SNS, although they have been notified that they are eligible to receive the following:

- N95 Respirators: 54,709
- Surgical Masks: 130,326
- Face Shields: 24,816
- Surgical Gowns: 20,233
- Coveralls: 104
- Gloves: 72,044

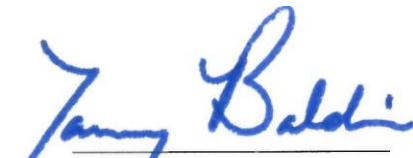
Further, we request that you provide answers to the following questions regarding the SNS:

1. When will Wisconsin receive all requested supplies from the SNS and will the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) be issuing further guidance for states on submitting additional requests, if needed?
2. Is the Administration replenishing the SNS as it pulls from the reserve?
3. Will the Administration use the Defense Production Act to expand production and ensure an adequate supply of needed resources?

4. How is the Administration responding to other critical supply shortages? How are you working with private industry to increase manufacturing of swabs, test kits, re-agents, and any other medical supplies or protective equipment needed by the health system?
5. Can you describe how the Administration is using funds made available in the recently passed emergency supplemental, or authorities from the Stafford Act declaration, to replenish supplies in the SNS?
6. Can you describe any flexibilities available to ASPR for the distribution of needed supplies that might otherwise not be used in the commercial market?

Our Governor, Mayors, and County Executives have taken aggressive steps to slow the spread of COVID-19. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that they have the resources needed to protect the health of all Wisconsinites.

Sincerely,




Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator




Ron Johnson
United States Senator




Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress




Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress