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California's 154 Billionaires Saw Net Worth Jump \$175.4 Billion— 25.5% in First Three Months of COVID-19 Pandemic

- *Growth in Billionaire Wealth a Stark Contrast to Recently Passed CA Budget Which Cuts Health & Vital Services of Vulnerable Californians in Absence of Federal Revenue, and Congress Stalls on New COVID-19 Financial Aid Package.*
- *Along with Federal Funds, Taxing the Windfall of the Ultra-Rich Could Raise Revenues Needed to Prevent Billions in Scheduled & Trigger Cuts to Medi-Cal & Many Other Programs.*
- *New Report Lists All 154 Billionaires and Their Profits in Just Three Months While Over 5 Million Californians Lost Jobs, and 5,000 Have Died from COVID-19.*
- *Grassroots Surge of Support for Budget Equity in California, With Many Events Planned for this Week*

WASHINGTON/CALIFORNIA—At the same time that the California Legislature was debating billions of dollars of budget cuts to health and other vital services during a pandemic and an economic downturn, California's 154 billionaires collectively saw their wealth increase by \$175.4 billion or 25.5% during the first three months of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report by Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF), Health Care for America Now (HCAN) and Health Access California. Another 11 Californians were newly minted billionaires during the same period.

Coming on the heels of a new California state budget that has billions of cuts deferred, scheduled, and subject to triggers, unless needed federal aid comes through, the new data provides a powerful argument for health, education, and other advocates seeking new federal funds and new state revenues, including taxes on the wealthiest, in order to prevent cuts and make needed investments in a time of great need. Grassroots energy for the concept of budget equity in California is driving multiple events throughout the state this week and throughout the summer.

While the top five California billionaires made \$70 billion in just three months, Governor Newsom proposed \$14 billion in “trigger” budget cuts to key education, health, and human services needed in this public health and economic emergency. While most cuts were deferred in the final budget deal (the health care portions detailed on [this scorecard](#)), some cuts are still scheduled, unless federal aid materializes, like \$1.2 billion in cuts to Medi-Cal providers. Still others, like denying health coverage to tens of thousands of low-income seniors—will be back on the table without federal aid or new state tax revenues.

“It’s incomprehensible that California Lawmakers have to make the choice to cut health care for seniors, low-income communities, and Black and brown Californians most at risk in the middle of a pandemic—without first asking more from our richest billionaires who are experiencing massive windfalls of additional wealth,” said Anthony Wright, executive director, Health Access California, the statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition. “A modest tax on those with the most can preserve health and other vital services for those with the least, and all that are struggling in this economic and public health crisis. If we don’t have significant federal aid and

new state tax revenue on billionaires or corporations, Californians will see major cuts to education, health and other programs that we need more than ever now.”

The top five California billionaires—Larry Ellison, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Page, Sergey Brin, and Elon Musk—saw their wealth grow by 17%, 59%, 28%, 29% and 70%, respectively. In contrast, over about the same period of the pandemic, 5,134,000 of the state’s residents [lost their jobs](#), 157,000 [fell ill with the virus](#) and 5,200 died from it.

CALIFORNIA BILLIONAIRES MARCH 18 TO JUNE 17, 2020						
Name	March 18 Net Worth (Millions)	June 17 Real Time Worth (Millions)	Wealth Growth in 3 Months	% Growth in 3 Months	Primary Income Source	Industry
Larry Ellison	\$59,000	\$69,003	\$10,003	17.0%	Software	Technology
Mark Zuckerberg	\$54,700	\$86,766	\$32,066	58.6%	Facebook	Technology
Larry Page	\$50,900	\$64,916	\$14,016	27.5%	Google	Technology
Sergey Brin	\$49,100	\$63,261	\$14,161	28.8%	Google	Technology
Elon Musk	\$24,600	\$41,820	\$17,220	70.0%	Tesla Motors, SpaceX	Automotive
Laurene Powell Jobs	\$16,400	\$20,709	\$4,309	26.3%	Apple, Disney	Technology
Donald Bren	\$15,500	\$15,300	-\$200	-1.3%	real estate	Real Estate
Eric Schmidt	\$13,200	\$15,264	\$2,064	15.6%	Google	Technology
Gordon Moore	\$9,800	\$11,984	\$2,184	22.3%	Intel	Technology
Jan Koum	\$9,700	\$10,030	\$330	3.4%	WhatsApp	Technology
Dustin Moskovitz	\$9,300	\$13,940	\$4,640	49.9%	Facebook	Technology
Stewart and Lynda Resnick	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$0	0.0%	agriculture, water	Food & Beverage
David Geffen	\$7,600	\$8,936	\$1,336	17.6%	movies, record labels	Media & Entertainment
John Doerr	\$7,300	\$9,569	\$2,269	31.1%	venture capital	Technology
Robert Pera	\$7,000	\$9,736	\$2,736	39.1%	wireless networking gear	Technology
Eli Broad	\$6,800	\$6,812	\$12	0.2%	investments	Finance & Investments
Charles Schwab	\$6,700	\$7,232	\$532	7.9%	discount brokerage	Finance & Investments
Patrick Soon-Shiong	\$6,400	\$7,169	\$769	12.0%	pharmaceuticals	Healthcare
Marijke Mars	\$6,200	\$6,955	\$755	12.2%	candy, pet food	Food & Beverage
Marc Benioff	\$5,800	\$7,413	\$1,613	27.8%	business software	Technology
Steven Rales	\$5,800	\$7,668	\$1,868	32.2%	manufacturing	Manufacturing

Tom Gores	\$5,700	\$5,749	\$49	0.9%	private equity	Finance & Investments
Eric Yuan	\$5,500	\$10,881	\$5,381	97.8%	video conferencing	Technology
George Roberts	\$5,300	\$6,172	\$872	16.5%	private equity	Finance & Investments
Jensen Huang	\$4,700	\$8,732	\$4,032	85.8%	semiconductors	Technology
George Lucas	\$4,600	\$5,538	\$938	20.4%	Star Wars	Media & Entertainment
Jeff Skoll	\$4,600	\$5,482	\$882	19.2%	eBay	Technology
John A. Sobrato	\$4,300	\$5,398	\$1,098	25.5%	real estate	Real Estate
David Sun	\$4,200	\$5,285	\$1,085	25.8%	computer hardware	Technology
John Tu	\$4,200	\$5,275	\$1,075	25.6%	computer hardware	Technology
Brian Chesky	\$4,100	\$3,120	-\$980	-23.9%	Airbnb	Technology
Joe Gebbia	\$4,100	\$3,120	-\$980	-23.9%	Airbnb	Technology
Nathan Blecharczyk	\$4,100	\$3,120	-\$980	-23.9%	Airbnb	Technology
Neal Blue	\$4,100	\$4,149	\$49	1.2%	defense	Manufacturing
Jack Dangermond	\$4,000	\$5,691	\$1,691	42.3%	mapping software	Technology
Steven Udvar-Hazy	\$3,900	\$4,022	\$122	3.1%	aircraft leasing	Service
Michael Milken	\$3,700	\$3,760	\$60	1.6%	investments	Finance & Investments
Reed Hastings	\$3,700	\$4,794	\$1,094	29.6%	Netflix	Media & Entertainment
Dagmar Dolby	\$3,600	\$4,339	\$739	20.5%	Dolby Laboratories	Technology
Donald Sterling	\$3,600	\$3,608	\$8	0.2%	real estate	Real Estate
Lynsi Snyder	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$0	0.0%	In-N-Out Burger	Food & Beverage
Steven Spielberg	\$3,600	\$3,623	\$23	0.6%	movies	Media & Entertainment
Thomas Siebel	\$3,600	\$3,589	-\$11	-0.3%	business software	Technology
Anthony Pritzker	\$3,500	\$3,538	\$38	1.1%	hotels, investments	Service
Douglas Leone	\$3,500	\$4,558	\$1,058	30.2%	venture capital	Finance & Investments
Henry Samueli	\$3,500	\$4,831	\$1,331	38.0%	semiconductors	Technology
Michael Moritz	\$3,400	\$4,445	\$1,045	30.7%	venture capital	Technology
Rick Caruso	\$3,400	\$3,404	\$4	0.1%	real estate	Real Estate
Romesh T. Wadhvani	\$3,400	\$3,364	-\$36	-1.0%	software	Technology
Meg Whitman	\$3,300	\$4,880	\$1,580	47.9%	eBay	Technology

Rupert Johnson, Jr.	\$3,200	\$3,497	\$297	9.3%	money management	Finance & Investments
Don Hankey	\$3,100	\$3,128	\$28	0.9%	auto loans	Finance & Investments
Edward Roski, Jr.	\$3,100	\$7,529	\$4,429	142.9%	Real Estate	Real Estate
Eric Smidt	\$3,000	\$4,839	\$1,839	61.3%	hardware stores	Fashion & Retail
Gwendolyn Sontheim Meyer	\$3,000	\$3,657	\$657	21.9%	Cargill	Food & Beverage
Orlando Bravo	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.0%	private equity	Finance & Investments
Scott Cook	\$2,900	\$3,664	\$764	26.3%	software	Technology
Jay Chaudhry	\$2,800	\$5,822	\$3,022	107.9%	Security Software	Technology
Antony Ressler	\$2,700	\$3,543	\$843	31.2%	finance	Finance & Investments
Haim Saban	\$2,700	\$2,802	\$102	3.8%	TV network, investments	Media & Entertainment
Henry Nicholas, III.	\$2,700	\$4,332	\$1,632	60.4%	semiconductors	Technology
Sean Parker	\$2,700	\$2,694	-\$6	-0.2%	Facebook	Technology
Chris Larsen	\$2,600	\$2,573	-\$27	-1.0%	cryptocurrency	Finance & Investments
Jack Dorsey	\$2,600	\$5,566	\$2,966	114.1%	Twitter, Square	Technology
Jim Coulter	\$2,600	\$2,584	-\$16	-0.6%	private equity	Finance & Investments
John Pritzker	\$2,600	\$2,566	-\$34	-1.3%	hotels, investments	Finance & Investments
Sumner Redstone	\$2,600	\$3,103	\$503	19.4%	media	Media & Entertainment
Travis Kalanick	\$2,600	\$2,649	\$49	1.9%	Uber	Technology
Archie Aldis Emmerson	\$2,500	\$2,806	\$306	12.2%	timberland, lumber mills	Manufacturing
Brian Acton	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.0%	WhatsApp	Technology
Mark Stevens	\$2,500	\$3,105	\$605	24.2%	venture capital	Finance & Investments
Oprah Winfrey	\$2,500	\$2,669	\$169	6.8%	TV shows	Media & Entertainment
Peter Gassner	\$2,500	\$3,967	\$1,467	58.7%	software	Technology
Jeff Rothschild	\$2,400	\$3,509	\$1,109	46.2%	Facebook	Technology
Jerry Yang	\$2,400	\$2,444	\$44	1.8%	Yahoo	Technology
Richard Peery	\$2,400	\$2,651	\$251	10.5%	real estate	Real Estate
Daniel Pritzker	\$2,300	\$2,386	\$86	3.7%	hotels, investments	Service
Jean (Gigi) Pritzker	\$2,300	\$2,690	\$390	16.9%	hotels, investments	Service

Jim Breyer	\$2,300	\$2,708	\$408	17.8%	venture capital	Technology
Peter Thiel	\$2,300	\$2,332	\$32	1.4%	Facebook, Palantir	Finance & Investments
Bruce Karsh	\$2,200	\$2,071	-\$129	-5.9%	private equity	Finance & Investments
Doris Fisher	\$2,200	\$2,310	\$110	5.0%	Gap	Fashion & Retail
Kavitark Ram Shriram	\$2,200	\$2,263	\$63	2.9%	venture capital, Google	Technology
David Filo	\$2,100	\$2,112	\$12	0.6%	Yahoo	Technology
Gordon Getty	\$2,100	\$2,132	\$32	1.5%	Getty Oil	Energy
Jay Paul	\$2,100	\$3,021	\$921	43.9%	real estate	Real Estate
Jeffrey Gundlach	\$2,100	\$2,060	-\$40	-1.9%	investments	Finance & Investments
John Arrillaga	\$2,100	\$2,356	\$256	12.2%	real estate	Real Estate
John Fisher	\$2,100	\$2,199	\$99	4.7%	Gap	Fashion & Retail
Jose Feliciano	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$0	0.0%	private equity	Finance & Investments
Alec Gores	\$2,000	\$1,872	-\$128	-6.4%	private equity	Finance & Investments
Behdad Eghbali	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%	private equity	Finance & Investments
David Murdock	\$2,000	\$2,033	\$33	1.6%	Dole, real estate	Food & Beverage
Rodney Sacks	\$2,000	\$2,327	\$327	16.3%	energy drinks	Food & Beverage
Vinod Khosla	\$2,000	\$2,319	\$319	15.9%	venture capital	Technology
Bobby Murphy	\$1,900	\$4,407	\$2,507	132.0%	Snapchat	Technology
Evan Spiegel	\$1,900	\$4,319	\$2,419	127.3%	Snapchat	Technology
George Argyros	\$1,900	\$2,231	\$331	17.4%	real estate, investments	Real Estate
Nicholas Pritzker	\$1,900	\$1,941	\$41	2.2%	hotels, investments	Service
Riley Bechtel	\$1,900	\$2,538	\$638	33.6%	engineering, construction	Construction & Engineering
Stephen Bechtel, Jr.	\$1,900	\$2,538	\$638	33.6%	engineering, construction	Construction & Engineering
Evan Williams	\$1,800	\$2,275	\$475	26.4%	Twitter	Technology
Reid Hoffman	\$1,800	\$1,993	\$193	10.7%	LinkedIn	Technology
Aneel Bhusri	\$1,700	\$2,340	\$640	37.6%	business software	Technology
Gary Michelson	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0	0.0%	medical patents	Healthcare
Anthony Wood	\$1,600	\$2,828	\$1,228	76.7%	Roku	Technology
Charles Munger	\$1,600	\$1,653	\$53	3.3%	Berkshire Hathaway	Finance & Investments

Thomas Steyer	\$1,600	\$1,615	\$15	0.9%	hedge funds	Finance & Investments
Alice Schwartz	\$1,500	\$1,973	\$473	31.5%	biotech	Healthcare
Bill Gross	\$1,500	\$1,499	-\$1	-0.1%	investments	Finance & Investments
Nicolas Berggruen	\$1,500	\$1,626	\$126	8.4%	investments	Finance & Investments
Orion Hindawi	\$1,500	\$1,526	\$26	1.7%	software	Technology
Sheryl Sandberg	\$1,500	\$1,745	\$245	16.3%	Facebook	Technology
Chris Wanstrath	\$1,400	\$1,942	\$542	38.7%	software	Technology
David Hindawi	\$1,400	\$1,445	\$45	3.2%	software	Technology
George Joseph	\$1,400	\$1,513	\$113	8.1%	insurance	Finance & Investments
John Bicket	\$1,400	\$1,417	\$17	1.2%	sensor systems	Technology
Kathy Fields	\$1,400	\$1,360	-\$40	-2.9%	skin care	Fashion & Retail
Katie Rodan	\$1,400	\$1,360	-\$40	-2.9%	skin care	Fashion & Retail
Osman Kibar	\$1,400	\$1,417	\$17	1.2%	biotech	Healthcare
Sanjit Biswas	\$1,400	\$1,417	\$17	1.2%	sensor systems	Technology
Sue Gross	\$1,400	\$1,409	\$9	0.6%	investments	Finance & Investments
Alexander Karp	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0	0.0%	software firm	Technology
B. Wayne Hughes, Jr.	\$1,300	\$1,411	\$111	8.6%	storage facilities	Real Estate
Craig Newmark	\$1,300	\$1,315	\$15	1.1%	Craigslist	Technology
Drew Houston	\$1,300	\$1,695	\$395	30.4%	cloud storage service	Technology
John Martin	\$1,300	\$1,222	-\$78	-6.0%	pharmaceuticals	Healthcare
Ken Xie	\$1,300	\$3,366	\$2,066	158.9%	Cybersecurity	Technology
Kevin Systrom	\$1,300	\$1,782	\$482	37.1%	Instagram	Technology
Sarah MacMillan	\$1,300	\$1,566	\$266	20.5%	Cargill	Food & Beverage
Vlad Shmunis	\$1,300	\$1,950	\$650	50.0%	cloud technology	Technology
George Marcus	\$1,200	\$1,334	\$134	11.2%	real estate	Real Estate
Joe Lacob	\$1,200	\$1,190	-\$11	-0.9%	Golden State Warriors	Sports
Kenneth Hao	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.0%	private equity	Finance & Investments
Marc Andreessen	\$1,200	\$1,383	\$183	15.3%	venture capital investing	Finance & Investments
Mark Pincus	\$1,200	\$1,398	\$198	16.5%	online games	Technology

Thomas Tull	\$1,200	\$1,216	\$16	1.3%	movies, investments	Media & Entertainment
Tom Preston-Werner	\$1,200	\$1,651	\$451	37.6%	collaborative software	Technology
Yvon Chouinard	\$1,200	\$1,226	\$26	2.2%	Patagonia	Fashion & Retail
Donald Friese	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$0	0.0%	manufacturing	Manufacturing
Frederic Luddy	\$1,100	\$1,152	\$52	4.8%	software	Technology
Patrick Hanrahan	\$1,100	\$1,500	\$400	36.4%	software	Technology
Richard Kayne	\$1,100	\$1,117	\$17	1.6%	investments	Finance & Investments
Brian Armstrong	\$1,000	\$1,040	\$40	4.0%	cryptocurrency	Finance & Investments
David Hall	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.0%	automotive technology	Automotive
GT Dave	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.0%	kombucha	Food & Beverage
Jayshree Ullal	\$1,000	\$1,216	\$216	21.6%	computer networking	Technology
Jeff Green	\$1,000	\$2,223	\$1,223	122.3%	Digital Advertising	Media & Entertainment
Kylie Jenner	\$1,000	\$900	-\$100	-10.0%	cosmetics	Fashion & Retail
Linden Blue	\$1,000	\$1,046	\$46	4.6%	defense	Manufacturing
Lowell Milken	\$1,000	\$1,039	\$39	3.9%	investments	Finance & Investments
RJ Scaringe	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.0%	electric vehicles	Automotive
Sandy Weill	\$1,000	\$1,032	\$32	3.2%	Citigroup	Finance & Investments
Steven Tisch	\$1,000	\$1,036	\$36	3.6%	insurance	Diversified
Ben Silbermann	N/A	\$1,340	N/A	N/A	Pinterest	Technology
Chris Sacca	N/A	\$1,037	N/A	N/A	venture capital investing	Finance & Investments
Dean Stoecker	N/A	\$1,076	N/A	N/A	software	Technology
Gary Lauder	N/A	\$1,076	N/A	N/A	Estée Lauder	Fashion & Retail
Isaac Larian	N/A	\$1,003	N/A	N/A	toys	Manufacturing
Jeff Lawson	N/A	\$1,589	N/A	N/A	software	Technology
Kanye West	N/A	\$1,300	N/A	N/A	music, sneakers	
Michael Xie	N/A	\$1,720	N/A	N/A	cybersecurity	Technology
PJ Hyett	N/A	\$1,311	N/A	N/A	software	Technology
Robert Fisher	N/A	\$1,036	N/A	N/A	Gap	Fashion & Retail
Safra Catz	N/A	\$1,080	N/A	N/A	software	Technology
TOTAL	\$688,300	\$877,237	\$175,370	25.5%		

Sources: All data is from Forbes and [available here](#).

March 18, 2020, data is from the [Forbes World's Billionaires List: The Richest in 2020](#).

June 17, 2020 data was taken from Forbes real-time estimates of worth that day.

“California’s situation is similar to, but more extreme in scale, to the national need for health and other safety-net services that are being cut, while the rich just get richer,” said Wright of Health Access California, and the Commit to Equity campaign to win more state tax revenues in the budget. “The federal government needs to provide urgent help states and communities need right now, but the state should look for additional resources and revenues where the wealth is.”

Among other COVID-19 victims are the [27 million Americans](#) who may lose their employer-provided healthcare coverage. [Low-wage workers](#), [people of color](#) and [women](#) have suffered disproportionately in the combined medical and economic crises because of long-standing racial and gender disparities. Billionaires are overwhelmingly white men.

Over the same three-month period, the nation’s 600-plus billionaires saw their combined wealth [increase by \\$584 billion or 20%](#)—rising from \$2.948 trillion to \$3.531 trillion, based on ATF’s analysis of Forbes data. Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve reported that as of the week of June 10, [total U.S. household wealth had shrunk by \\$6.5 trillion](#) during the first three months of the pandemic.

The three richest Americans, Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, saw their combined wealth jump by \$87 billion, or 38%, 11% and 58%, respectively. The total number of billionaires grew from 614 to 643.

“It’s immoral that billionaires are getting richer and richer while average Americans are treading water if they are lucky, or drowning, from the economic crash caused by the pandemic,” said **Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness**. “Congress needs to urgently provide a major new financial aid package to ensure working families can recover and critical state and local services can keep being provided. The package should repeal the huge tax break for millionaires in the first major financial aid law and block any new tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy.”

“In the biggest public health crisis of our lifetimes, billionaires are getting richer while millions are losing coverage or have no access to affordable health care,” said **Margarida Jorge, executive director of Health Care for America Now**. Rather than pass the relief measures that we all need to beat COVID, Congress is letting families, workers, seniors and many others go without the health care they need to survive, letting health care workers go without protective equipment and forcing hospitals to face unprecedented shortages in beds, ventilators and medicines. It’s obvious there’s plenty of money—the problem here is Congress’ priorities.”

Decades of [tax cuts for the rich](#) have fueled the growth of billionaires and their wealth. And even in the midst of the greatest national emergency since World War II, tax handouts to the wealthy have continued—most recently in the form of a [\\$135 billion handout](#) slipped into the \$2 trillion CARES pandemic relief law enacted in late March. It primarily benefits millionaire business owners and [costs three times more](#) than the law spends on social safety net programs and exceeds the amount expended on hospitals and public health.

The House HEROES Act passed in May would repeal this tax break that is giving an [average tax cut of \\$1.6 million this year](#) to 43,000 millionaires and billionaires, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT). That big payout contrasts sharply with the [one-time stimulus checks of up to \\$1,200](#) that have helped 159 million people under the CARES Act. Closing this tax loophole and making it permanent [would raise \\$246 billion](#) per the JCT, which could be used for a new major pandemic financial relief and recovery package.

Rather than respond to growing needs from increasing numbers of unemployed people, new patients, and overburdened local and state agencies, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has been [slow-walking legislative action](#) on another major relief measure such as the HEROES Act, especially one that would provide a major cash infusion to state and local governments that have lost huge amounts of tax revenue but must by law balance their budgets. Instead, McConnell has suggested that states file for [bankruptcy](#).

The HEROES Act would greatly benefit California during this economic crisis by providing immediate relief and laying the groundwork for a more robust economic recovery, including:

- \$48.1 billion out of a total of about \$500 billion in [direct aid to state governments](#) over the next two years for critical services.
- \$45.8 billion out of a total of \$375 billion in [direct aid to local governments](#) over the next two years for critical services. [Go here](#) to see how much is going to communities in your state.
- \$14.3 billion out of a total of [\\$117 billion in increased federal Medicaid funding](#) over the next two years.
- \$10.7 billion out of a total of [\\$90 billion for public schools](#) for grades K-12 and public colleges and universities.

[All of the above data is available in one table here.](#)

State residents will also get their fair share of the [following other assistance](#) provided by the HEROES Act should it become law:

- Extension through the end of the year of the \$600 per week in enhanced unemployment benefits that are expiring at the end of July.
- Renewal and increase in direct assistance checks to individuals and families: \$1,200 per each adult and child, up to \$6,000 per household.
- \$100 billion to protect renters and homeowners from evictions and foreclosures.

Increased support from the federal government directly to states through these provisions is the best way to avoid state cuts to jobs and services that would worsen the impact of the pandemic and prolong the recession the country is experiencing.

[Economists warn](#) that delayed action on more funding to states, unemployment benefits, and safety net services will have dire consequences for recovery, could lengthen and deepen the recession and curtail job growth for the [next decade](#). Moreover, coronavirus cases are back on [the rise in over a dozen states](#) where the re-opening process has increased risk of exposure, furthering jeopardizing the economy.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell [has cited rising deficits](#) in delaying immediate consideration of new pandemic relief legislation, but so far has not proposed rolling back the \$135 billion Millionaires Giveaway in the CARES Act. Rather, McConnell's key priority for the next relief package has been to provide [legal immunity](#) to employers by limiting workers' rights in court to sue bosses who put their safety at risk or neglect COVID protocols.

Polling shows that [half of Americans](#) have been personally economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic -- losing their job or having their hours cut back. Congress must provide help by working with local and state elected officials and agencies to ensure workers, families and small businesses get the resources they need to make it through the pandemic and mitigate the harmful consequences of the economic slow-down.

State residents can't afford excuses from Congressional leaders who prioritize tax giveaways for the rich and corporations over the basic needs of average people or more delays that will double down on prolonged pain for millions.

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