

Statement on Covid19 from Yavapai County Democratic Party Chair John Lutes

March 14, 2020

The Yavapai County Democrats support the efforts by Congressional Democrats to have the federal government provide assistance to those who find their livelihoods and housing threatened by work stoppages related to the coronavirus pandemic.

So far we in northern Arizona are experiencing relatively low risk from the virus, but we should expect that it will come and plan accordingly, including the avoidance of large public meetings.

The Senate bill:

- * Allows the application of emergency Employment Insurance funds to help workers and small businesses cope with disruptions.
- * Requires all employers to allow employees to earn up to seven days of paid sick leave, and provide 14 days of immediate paid leave in the event of a public-health emergency.
- * Allows payment deferral of up to six months on federally insured or guaranteed mortgages and federal student loans without additional fees, compounding interest or risk to credit scores.
- * Provides special relief for small businesses and local economies, including emergency SBA grants to cover the cost of lost business and sick leave.
- * Provides emergency rental assistance to prevent evictions and utility stoppages.
- * Provides emergency mortgage assistance, reinstatement assistance and legal assistance for those who fall behind on payments.
- * Establishes supplemental federal housing support to provide direct aid to housing authorities and other organizations to ensure resident safety and maintain housing for those falling behind and vulnerable populations.
- * Provides food-security measures to assist low-income and vulnerable populations in

maintaining nutrition and support food distribution.

The House bill:

- * Provides supplemental funding for food assistance and to reinforce food distribution for children and low-income seniors.
- * Suspends work requirements and provides emergency benefits for SNAP recipients.
- * Provides for emergency paid sick days for those who are sick, quarantined or can't work due to school closings.
- * Provides emergency unemployment compensation and administration infrastructure.
- * Adds protections for healthcare workers.
- * Requires health-insurance plans to cover COVID-19 testing and waive co-pays.
- * Covers no-cost testing for the uninsured.

If implemented, these proposals will help us all maintain the health of our families, our communities and our economy as we weather this crisis. We urge you to express your support by calling your US Representatives and Senators at the numbers below.

John Lutes, Chair
Yavapai County Democratic Party
YavDem.org