



[Senate Approves \\$484 Billion Coronavirus Relief Package](#)

The U.S. Senate approved a new round of coronavirus relief, worth around \$484 billion, aimed at providing money for small businesses and aid for hospitals and disease testing. A large segment of the bill's funds – around \$384 billion – will go towards replenishing the Paycheck Protection Program, the small-business payroll loan program that ran out of money last week. An additional \$75 billion will be given to hospitals, and the remaining \$25 billion will be used to boost coronavirus testing. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) and Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) initially voiced opposition but allowed the bill to go through without formally objecting, and the legislation was passed with unanimous consent on Tuesday afternoon. The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to take up and pass the bill on Thursday, and President Trump has already expressed that he plans on signing it into law after that.

Lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives have been instructed to prepare to return to Washington D.C. this week in anticipation of Thursday's deliberation and vote. Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD), the House Majority Leader, stated that members were not being forced to come back but expects more than enough to do so in order to establish a quorum – 216 members – and clear the relief package by way of a roll call vote. "We are asking every member to return who can return. There are some members who are particularly vulnerable...so we're not ordering members to come back," said Hoyer. He has also expressed that the House will vote on a proposal to allow proxy voting for future business during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.