Dear Friend,

My prayers are with you, our community, nation and world as we face the COVID-19 pandemic.

On January 1, 2020, this was the farthest thing from our minds as we went about life’s daily routines. But, today, we are united in our efforts to defeat this virus. We have neighbors taking care of neighbors, businesses retooling to meet our health care needs and special senior hours at our grocery stores.

Please join me in praying for the safety of the health care workers who are on the front lines of this battle as they face risk and fatigue in caring for those in need. And, please take a moment to thank those who are serving to keep our communities safe and our store shelves stocked.

I’m proud that we have seen Americans coming together, and even Washington set aside partisanship to approve three strong bipartisan measures to meet immediate needs and establish a strong foundation for economic recovery. Nothing is ever perfect, particularly in Washington.

On Friday, legislation to provide economic relief to American families, workers, the recently unemployed, and businesses was passed with my support and signed into law. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748 - CARES Act) includes broad economic relief for Americans harmed by public policies, including closures, to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

This third bill builds on the two already enacted into law that provided added funding for combatting the virus, equipping our health care providers, and providing paid sick and family leave for those impacted by the virus. While there are provisions in the CARES Act I would have written differently, removed or added, the bottom line is that most of what is in this bill is for the common good of the American people.

The CARES Act provides significant economic relief for the American people. Some highlights of the bill include:
**Paycheck Protections for Small Businesses and Employees of Small Businesses** – $350 billion to provide no cost loans for small businesses so that they are able to continue paying the wages of their employees, mortgages, rents and utilities. This also applies to non-profits. And, in many instances these loans will be forgiven.

This is critically important as we want businesses - as much as possible - to be able to be kept intact during this government mandated shutdown so employees can go back to work and our economy can return to full strength as quickly as possible.

**Unemployment Insurance for Furloughed Workers** – The bill provides for unemployment insurance, including enhanced payments, for those who have lost jobs or had working hours reduced due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Benefits may be applied for at [www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org).

**Economic Recovery Checks** – Provides up to $1,200 per adult ($2,400 per couple) plus $500 per child. This will be based on 2019 tax returns, or 2018 tax returns if not yet filed for 2019.

**Defense and NASA contract workers** – For many defense and NASA contract workers there is no telework option. The bill includes my provision to protect these workers and their pay so we can keep these critical programs on track, and as many workers in place as possible while we battle the coronavirus.

**Other Provisions** – The bill also addresses student loan and interest payments, foreclosures, evictions as well as providing greater regulatory lenience to financial institutions that work with borrowers to address their needs.

There are many provisions in the bill that are focused on providing immediate and near-term economic relief for American workers and their employers. Congress and the White House are continuing to work on additional initiatives to provide necessary relief while securing the foundation for a solid economic recovery.

**Detailed fact sheets on this legislation will be posted on my coronavirus resource page as they become available.** Please check back as we will be updating the page regularly. The best way to fight this virus is to follow the advice of public health officials and stay home. If we can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to reach out – We’re here to serve you!

Sincerely,
This update was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense. It is provided as a service to 8th Congressional District constituents.