

\$2 Trillion Stimulus Package

Congressman Comer: "Help is on the way."

Mary Beth Sallee
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Last Friday afternoon on March 27, President Donald Trump signed into law a historic \$2 trillion coronavirus emergency relief bill. The stimulus package came as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread throughout the nation, vastly devastating families, businesses, and the economy.

This is the largest emergency aid package in U.S. history. The bill passed the Senate earlier last week and was approved by the House of Representatives last Friday.

Elements of the stimulus package include checks being sent to qualifying families and individuals, financial assistance for small businesses, and financial support for healthcare providers to receive necessary protective equipment. Approximately \$500 billion of the package will be in loans for distressed companies.

Congressman James Comer, U.S. Representative for Kentucky's 1st Congressional District, spoke on the House floor last week in support of the coronavirus emergency stimulus package.

Congressman Comer stated that while the bill is not perfect, specifically its large price tag, the bill was necessary to provide direct financial assistance for the small businesses and the hard-working individuals at the heart of Kentucky and the nation's economy.

"To compensate everyone for the massive downturn in the economy, for businesses being shut down, and for employees being laid off, the bill allows for every American who makes less than \$100,000 a year to get a direct payment from the federal government for \$1,200," Comer said. "It also allows for children under 17 who have parents that make less than \$100,000 to get \$500 each. So, it puts money in most Americans' pockets."

"Next, the bill provides a loan fund administered to the Small Business Administration for businesses that have been forced to shut down because of the coronavirus," Comer added. "It also puts money in the unemployment insurance fund because it's going to be depleted within a matter of days. And it provides funding for necessary protective equipment for our medical workers, the ones on the front lines of the coronavirus, as well as hospitals that have been negatively impacted by the coronavirus."

Congressman Comer



Congressman James Comer said that help is on the way for Kentuckians in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

What does the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Bill include?

Income for American Families

- One-time tax rebate check
- \$1,200 per individual, \$2,400 per couple and \$500 per eligible child
- The full rebate amount is available for those with incomes at or below \$75,000 for individuals, and \$150,000 for married couples

Small Business Help

- Loans forgiven for keeping employees on payroll
- 8 weeks of cash flow forgiven

Access to Care for Americans

- Increase in access to testing
- FDA can quickly approve new medication and treatments

Direct Funding to Combat the Pandemic

- \$340 billion supplemental appropriations
- \$150 billion for states, cities, and localities, including support for healthcare workers and funding for Personal Protective Equipment

Source: Website of Congressman James Comer

er also stated that the coronavirus emergency stimulus package is in no relation to the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) that was passed by Congress and signed into law by former President George W. Bush in October of 2008. The TARP allowed the U.S. government to purchase assets and equity deemed toxic from financial institutions to strengthen its financial sector. For most, this was seen as a bailout for businesses and institutions that made risky investments.

"This bill is nothing like the TARP bailout," Comer said. "This is a mainstream bailout and an American worker bailout...The bill doesn't bail out any industry other than the airline industry...We have to have air travel for our economy, and that's the only industry that received assistance. The majority of the money is for small businesses, and it's a loan pool to help them make payroll if they've been forced to shut down because of the coronavirus or emergency loans if their supply chain has been

disrupted or anything like that."

Although there was much discord among political parties in regards to what would be included in the bill, Comer said it was imperative that Congress come together in bipartisan agreement for the American people.

"There's so much uncertainty out there. We've seen that in the stock market and with the jobs market," Comer said. "If Congress couldn't come together in a bipartisan way, I think that we were on a fast-track to a depression. So, it seems that coming together in a bipartisan way not only proves that it is possible, but it also seems to have given some stability and calm not just to the stock market but also to the commodities market which is what agriculture products are on...We just hope we can see some light at the end of the tunnel and try to get everybody back to work and our lives back to normal as soon as possible."

Overall, Congressman Comer said this bill will simply provide the help

that so many Kentuckians and Americans need.

"Help is on the way," Comer said. "I worked very hard to make sure this bill wasn't a corporate giveaway like the last time Congress had to do this long before I ever got to Washington. This bill should provide funding for all the necessary protective equipment that our hospital workers and medical professionals need. This bill should put a pretty good amount of money into everyone's pockets within the next three to four weeks within the form of a direct payment. And it should stabilize the unemployment insurance fund for workers who have been displaced."

The Tompkinsville Office of Congressman James Comer can be reached at 270-487-9509 or toll free at 1-800-328-5629. His Washington, D.C. Office can be reached at 202-225-3115.

More information can also be found at Congressman Comer's website: <https://comer.house.gov/>.

Talking to Your Kids about COVID-19

Submitted by: Lynn A. Blankenship, Metcalfe Co. Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences Education

The spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, has captured the world's attention on many levels. The societal response has created a lot of change in our daily lives from school closures to the cancellation and rescheduling of major sporting and community events. As hard as it for adults to make sense of these uncertain times, it is even harder for children. Talking to your children about coronavirus can go a long way in making them feel safe, secure, and loved.

Ways you can help your child will be different based on your child's age, knowledge of the situation, and their unique personality.

Listen. Always be willing to listen to and answer your child's questions, but realize not every child will want to talk about the subject. You know your child best, so if your child likes to process things slowly, let them. Allow them to bring it up in their own. If you're unsure whether your child has questions, simply ask them.

Honesty. When they do bring up the subject, try your best to answer your child's questions correctly and honestly. Talk about the subject in the terms of "strong germs or serious illness." Relate it to something they may already be familiar with like the flu or a bad cold, but explain that some people respond differently. Remind children the reason for the cancellations is an effort to keep us all safe and

healthy, and there are many people working hard to stop, treat, and cure the virus.

Limit. Limit news media footage of the virus as these can increase anxiety and sadness, especially in younger children. If you find your child in front of a television showing virus updates, remain calm and try to move their attention elsewhere. Offer to play with them, ask about their day, or read a book with them.

While you can't promise your children the virus will never affect their community or affect people they know, you can reassure them that there are people who are doing their best to keep them safe. You can list these people like police officers, firefighters, health-care workers, and government officials who work to keep everyone safe.

As new developments and information become available, it is always a good idea to check it against reliable sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which offers a wealth of information on the virus, and the World Health Organization, which currently has information dispelling myths.

You can also reach out to your local Cooperative Extension office for more information.

Resources: Center for Disease Control (2020). Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): What you should know. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html> World Health Organization (2020). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters> Source: David Weisenhorn, Senior Extension Specialist for Parenting and Child Development Education

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Turner has been using the city's Facebook page for livestream broadcasts.

In last week's broadcasts he encouraged people to follow the rules.

"We will get through this, if we do what they are asking us to do, we will weather the storm," Turner said.

"I urge you to be vigilant. The fact that we live in the country is an advantage to us, because we are not in close quarters."

He urge people to use modern measures, and common sense.

Using tele-check for symptoms and social distancing, were among recommendations.

He also encouraged people to be patient and cooperative in the face of adversity.

"I've been in countries where I slept with a gas mask as my pil-

low. There is nothing fun about this. It's the same principle hair because it is an airborne virus. No one, not even the experts know how long this will last," said Turner.

He also encouraged being a good neighbor. "Please check on the elderly. Please, please, please do not be a hoarder. We have people who need toilet paper, and milk that don't have it."

To lessen the economic blow, he also mentioned that there would be no utilities shut off during this time. But encourage those that could make payments to do so. "Payments are expected and appreciated so that we can pay our employees and our bills."

Turn your plans to continue to update the community in this innovative way, through this free live service. To see these updates, please follow the City of Tompkinsville's Facebook page.