

COSPONSOR THE MASKS FOR ALL ACT

Senator Sanders invites your boss to be an original cosponsor of **the Masks for All Act**.

The Masks for All Act of 2020 would require the federal government to use all available authorities, including the Defense Production Act, to eliminate all shortages of face masks, surgical masks, and N-95 respirators and distribute masks to the public as soon as possible. The legislation was recently announced in a joint [CNN op-ed](#) by Senator Sanders and Andy Slavitt, former Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under President Obama. Reps. Khanna, Trahan, and Watson Coleman will lead the legislation in the House.

Under the Masks for All Act, every person in the United States – including individuals who are experiencing homelessness or living in congregate settings such as prisons, shelters, and assisted living facilities – would receive a package of three high quality, reusable face masks, free of charge. Individuals would also be able to pick up free masks at convenient locations in their communities such as post offices, pharmacies, and COVID-19 testing sites. Finally, the bill would provide needed surgical masks and N-95 respirators to all workers in health settings.

Recent data shows that the widespread use of face masks could prevent tens of thousands of deaths by COVID-19, while other studies show universal mask wearing could save the U.S. economy [\\$1 trillion](#) by allowing the country to re-open safely. At a time when the deadly coronavirus pandemic has infected over [3.5 million](#) Americans and killed more than 138,000, Congress has a responsibility to ensure families and workers have the personal protective equipment they need to stay safe. Additionally, as more than [20 states](#) are requiring wearing masks in public, it is essential that our government step up and provide people with the masks they need to follow those orders.

The Masks for All Act would also:

- Appropriate \$5 billion for domestic manufacturing, procurement, and mask distribution
- Require the federal government to procure masks at a reasonable price
- Deliver masks to households via the U.S. Postal Service
- Package masks with information on the importance of wearing and proper use of masks
- Require weekly progress reports to Congress on use of funds and actions undertaken to eliminate mask shortages

Deadline for original cosponsors is Wednesday, July 22nd.

With questions or to cosponsor, please contact Marissa Barrera at marissa_barrera@budget.senate.gov or 202-570-8939