

COVID-19

# NEWS UPDATES 03/25/20

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## **Senate aims to vote Wednesday on \$2 trillion coronavirus bill after landmark agreement with White House**

Source: The Washington Post

Publication: 3/25/20, 2:35 PM

The Senate is aiming to vote Wednesday on a \$2 trillion stimulus package that is designed to flood the U.S. economy with money in an effort to stabilize households and businesses that have been floored by the [coronavirus](#) outbreak. But Senate leaders were still working to avoid a number of last-minute snags. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, demanded changes to help his state deal with a flood of new cases. Three Republican senators said a provision in the bill needed to be fixed immediately or it would incentivize people not to return to work. And House Democrats wouldn't provide a firm timeline of when they would vote to pass the bill.

The late-stage drama was just the latest twist for the massive spending bill, which had snowballed from President Trump's push for a eight-month payroll tax cut into the largest emergency relief package in American history. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) announced the breakthrough on the Senate floor around 1:30 a.m., after a long day of talks with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other administration officials.

Continue reading [here](#).

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## **Handful of GOP senators threaten to delay Senate coronavirus bill over unemployment payments**

Source: NBC News

Publication: 3/25/20, 4:00 PM

A handful of Republican senators on Wednesday threatened to delay [the \\$2 trillion coronavirus spending bill](#) over a [proposed increase to unemployment insurance](#). In a statement, Sens. Tim Scott, R-S.C., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Ben Sasse, R-Neb., said that the bill could provide a "strong incentive for employees to be laid off instead of going to work" because some people could theoretically make more by being unemployed.

"This isn't an abstract, philosophical point — it's an immediate, real-world problem," they continued. "If the federal government accidentally incentivizes layoffs, we risk life-threatening shortages in sectors where doctors, nurses, and pharmacists are trying to care for the sick, and where growers and grocers, truckers and cooks are trying to get food to families' tables." They added, "We must sadly oppose the fast-tracking of this bill until this text is addressed, or the Department of Labor issues regulatory guidance that no American would earn more by not working than by working."

Continue reading [here](#).

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## **Democrat says House vote on \$2 trillion aid deal could fall to Friday**

Source: The Hill

Publication: 3/25/20, 1:53 PM

Rep. Katherine Clark (D-Mass.) said Wednesday that the House's vote on the \$2 trillion coronavirus package reached by Senate leaders could possibly be pushed to Friday. "Our goal is to get our caucus all of the information that they need and to get to unanimous consent or voice vote by tomorrow, certainly by Friday," Clark, the vice chairwoman of the House Democratic Caucus, told MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell. "We are balancing the urgency which we must get this relief to the American people and our responsibility, with a multiple trillion dollar package, to the taxpayers — and to making sure that this funding is targeted at those that need it the most," she said.

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## **Trump hasn't yet released disaster unemployment funds**

Source: Politico

Publication: 3/24/20, 9:31 PM

The three states that President Donald Trump has formally declared coronavirus disaster areas have not received the disaster unemployment assistance that they expected to follow that designation. [New York](#), [California](#) and [Washington state](#) all requested access to several aid programs provided under a disaster declaration, including disaster unemployment assistance.

Disaster unemployment assistance allows workers who aren't eligible for traditional unemployment benefits, like Uber drivers and other gig economy workers, to receive 26 weeks' unemployment benefits if their job loss is attributable to a disaster that eliminates their job or keeps them from reaching their job site. To receive disaster employment assistance, a state must be declared a disaster area by the president.

Continue reading [here](#).

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## **General Resources**

[The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America - 15 Days to Slow the Spread](#)

[Updates on Federal Agencies' Responses to COVID-19](#)

[FEMA Guidance: COVID-19 Pandemic Eligible Emergency Protective Measures](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration - Disaster Loan Assistance](#)

[CDC Resources for Businesses and Employers](#)

[Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#)

[State Health Departments](#)