

Open Letter to the 118th Congress in support of S.1489 - National Task Force on the COVID-19 Pandemic Act

Dear Honorable Members of the U.S. 118th Congress,

We write to express our solidarity with Covid grieverers and urge you to pass [S.1489 - National Task Force on the COVID-19 Pandemic Act](#). The legislation would establish a Task Force to investigate the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and make policy recommendations to improve the United States' national security and preparedness for future pandemics and other major disasters. This critical work cannot wait.

The creation of a national Task Force is the first step towards accountability for the pain and suffering endured by millions of people bereaved, disabled, or irrevocably harmed by the pandemic. This comprehensive and permanent public record of what happened and why will formally recognize the 1.2 million people who died in the U.S., hold willfully negligent leaders accountable, and protect us from similar fallout during future disasters.

Unbiased reviews of disaster response and recovery are a tried-and-true tool for safeguarding our country. Congress has approved 170 such reviews since 1989, including the 9/11 Commission and the post-Katrina National Commission on Children and Disasters. That's why Marked By Covid, the pandemic justice and remembrance movement led by Covid grieverers, has been calling for a Task Force since July 2020.

With the end of the federal COVID-19 emergency, we are at a critical decision point: will we remember or forget? Without a National Task Force to establish a collective memory, our country will be on a path towards increasingly destructive yet preventable disasters. We urge you to pass the National Task Force on the COVID-19 Pandemic Act as soon as possible.

Signed,

Marked By Covid	Mighty Earth
Center for Popular Democracy	Solve M.E.
UCSF Department of Emergency Medicine	Dysautonomia International
COVID-19 Longhaulers Advocacy Project	Long COVID Alliance
COVID Collaborative	Poder Latinx
Pandemic Action Network	GRACE
Oxfam America	Rami's Heart
End Well	People's Action
Avaaz	Liberation in a Generation
Long Covid Families	Young Widows and Widowers of COVID
Children's Collaborative for Healing & Support	Pandemic of Love
New Jersey Public Health Association	Pandemic Patients
Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Safety & Health	Micronesian Islander Community
COVID Survivors for Change	People Power United
Latinx Task Force	Movement Tech Help Desk
ME Action	Zero Breast Cancer
Long Covid Justice	Stop Bullying Coalition
Strategies for High Impact	New Disabled South
Patient-Led Research Collaborative	Project N95, Inc
USPIRG	We Said Enough
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives	National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (COSH)
Mainers for Accountable Leadership	MassCOSH
R2H: Right to Health Action	United We Dream

1. Michael Siegel, MD, MPH, Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine
2. Olivia Troye, Former Homeland Security & Covid Task Force Advisor to the Vice President of the U.S., Mike Pence
3. Christine Keeves, MPH Co-founder Marked By Covid
4. Nora Kenworthy, Associate Professor of Nursing and Health Studies
5. William J. Walsh, MD Medical Director, Weber Recovery Center
6. Kenneth D. Rosenberg, MD, MPH, Oregon Health Authority (retired)
7. Karyn Pomerantz
8. Ellen Mendlow, TwoMinds Comms--Strategist & Editor
9. Kris Jayme Matas
10. Karen McPhail-Bell, PhD
11. Dr. Tamara Lea Spira, PhD, co-founder of Protect Their Future
12. Ligia F
13. Juliana E. Morris, MD, EdM, Harvard Medical School
14. Caro Granner
15. Sarah Horsley, BPS Families for COVID Safety (Boston, MA)
16. Sarah Senk, PhD, CSU Maritime
17. Christine Pontus RN
18. Anne Miller
19. Tara C Smith PhD, epidemiologist
20. Jennie Spector, LCSW
21. Marilyn Levi-Baumgarten MLB Health LLC
22. Jhumka Gupta, ScD, MPH—George Mason University College of Public Health
23. Antonia Lewis, MPH - economic and social impact from COVID
24. Jesse Campagna, MPH - Social, Behavioral, and Environmental Epidemiology
25. Gillian Grant, MPH
26. Priscilla Grim
27. Alana Saltz, disability rights activist
28. Barbara Malmset
29. Dorothy Wigmore, MS, MFA
30. Kayla Wilburn
31. Wendy Shaffer MLA
32. Lindsey Thatcher, MPH
33. Estefania Martinez, MPH- George Washington University
34. Marissa Brash, DrPH, EdD, MPH, CPH - Azusa Pacific University
35. Robin Kalish MD MPH
36. Bridgette Jones Brokevitch (aka the Public Health Heaux)
37. Emily Boundaone MSN RN CCRN
38. Katherine Kirkland, DrPH, MPH (retired)
39. Alex Wilson- Public Health and Health Equity Specialist
40. Karyn Pomerantz, MPH MLS (retired), Public Health Awakened, World Health Network, Radical Elders
41. Leika Suzumura, RD, MPH - Nourishian for Life
42. Debra Pelto, MPH, PhD, Fundamental Health Research
43. Andrea Lowe, MPH, CPH - Social Impact Studio Consulting LLC
44. Kenneth D. Chiu
45. Frances Gilmore, MIH
46. Craig Slatin, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Public Health, University of Massachusetts Lowell
47. Maggie Hawkins, MPH, CHES
48. Regina LaRocque, MD MPH - Harvard Medical School
49. Dara Baldwin
50. Stacy Lyn Burnett
51. Ogie Strogatz, MSPH
52. Toni Van Pely
53. Stephanie Brancaforte, Rinascimento Green

54. Alan Meyers, MD,MPH, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine
55. Jessie Milne, MPH, CCRP
56. Lauren Reed
57. Sarah Gareau, DrPH - University of South Carolina
58. Sarah Mart, MS, MPH - public health researcher and program manager; spouse, and mom
59. Danielle Zimmel, MPH
60. Kayla Estes-Romero, MPH and MSW graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago
61. Kelley Baumann
62. Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP
63. James Schultz Infectious Disease Response Trainer
64. Michelle Ko, MD, PhD
65. Anna Efstate
66. Marjorie Kersten, MPH - University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health
67. Kathleen O'Connell, UIC MPH Candidate
68. Monique Fitzgerald
69. Simone Meltesen
70. Gregory Verzosa, BS, BSN pending
71. Catherine Thomsen, MPH, Zero Breast Cancer
72. Reana Thomas, MPH
73. Julia Koehler, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
74. Marcus Cheatham, Retired Health Officer
75. Dara Baldwin - Activist, Scholar
76. Dominique Heinke, ScD Epidemiology



MARKED BY COVID

COVID TASK FORCE: Institutional Endorsers



Children's Collaborative
FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT



COVID Collaborative



UCSF Department of Emergency Medicine

Mainers for Accountable Leadership



PROJECT N95



Young Widows and Widowers OF COVID-19

ENDWELL



zero breast cancer

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