



**CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE
ORGANIZATIONS (CFSO)**

FLASH BRIEF

MARCH 2020

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level, and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, state, and national policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS

Academic-based Drug Field Testing & Training Initiative

BJA will select an applicant to establish a pilot project to develop a national training model on current rapid identification technology and scientifically sound field collection and testing methods that can be used when drugs are discovered in the field. To be led by an accredited institution of higher learning, the training should incorporate evidence collection and testing technologies and methods that are reliable within state and local court systems.

<https://bjaojp.gov/DFT20>

Applications are due May 8, 2020

CFSO Updates on Federal Scheduling Changes

We are going to try and keep you updated on federal schedule changes.

Placement of Cenobamate in Schedule V--On November 21, 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a new drug application for XCOPRI (cenobamate) tablets. Cenobamate is chemically known as [(1R)-1-(2-chlorophenyl)-2-(tetrazol-2-yl)ethyl] carbamate. Thereafter, the Department of Health and Human Services provided the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) with a scheduling recommendation to place cenobamate in schedule V of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). In accordance with the CSA, as revised by the Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act, DEA is hereby issuing an interim final rule placing cenobamate, including its salts, in schedule V of the CSA. Electronic comments must be submitted, and written comments must be postmarked, on or before April 9, 2020.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 3/17/2020

This information literally changes by the minute. This is an update as of today. At the current time we anticipate three pieces of legislation to address the coronavirus. A summary of each as it currently stands is below. We will continue to update and provide information on how to access this aid.

1. **CORONAVIRUS 1-Passed and now PL 116-123, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020**

This bill provides \$8.3 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies to respond to the coronavirus outbreak.

Within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the bill provides FY2020 supplemental appropriations for

- the Food and Drug Administration,
- the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention,
- the National Institutes of Health, and
- the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund.

In addition, the bill provides supplemental appropriations for

- the Small Business Administration,
- the Department of State, and
- the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The supplemental appropriations are designated as emergency spending, which is exempt from discretionary spending limits.

The programs funded by the bill address issues such as

- developing, manufacturing, and procuring vaccines and other medical supplies;
- grants for state, local, and tribal public health agencies and organizations;
- loans for affected small businesses;
- evacuations and emergency preparedness activities at U.S. embassies and other State Department facilities; and
- humanitarian assistance and support for health systems in the affected countries.

The bill also allows HHS to temporarily waive certain Medicare restrictions and requirements regarding telehealth services during the coronavirus public health emergency.

2. **CORONAVIRUS 2-Pending in Senate passage expected tonight, H.R. 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

Last night, the House passed H Res 904, technical corrections to the second coronavirus bill, HR 6201. Passage of the resolution had been delayed yesterday due to objections by Rep. Louie Gohmert. ***Below is a [CURRENT NOT FINAL](#) summary of the pending legislation.***

This bill responds to the coronavirus outbreak by providing paid sick leave and free coronavirus testing, expanding food assistance and unemployment benefits, and requiring employers to provide additional protections for health care workers.

Specifically, the bill provides FY2020 supplemental appropriations to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for nutrition and food assistance programs, including

- the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC);
- the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP); and
- nutrition assistance grants for U.S. territories.

The bill also provides FY2020 appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services for nutrition programs that assist the elderly.

The supplemental appropriations provided by the bill are designated as emergency spending, which is exempt from discretionary spending limits.

The bill modifies USDA food assistance and nutrition programs to

- allow certain waivers to requirements for the school meal programs,
- suspend the work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program), and
- allow states to request waivers to provide certain emergency SNAP benefits.

In addition, the bill requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue an emergency temporary standard that requires certain employers to develop and implement a comprehensive infectious disease exposure control plan to protect health care workers.

The bill also includes provisions that

- establish a federal emergency paid leave benefits program to provide payments to employees taking unpaid leave due to the coronavirus outbreak,
- expand unemployment benefits and provide grants to states for processing and paying claims,
- require employers to provide paid sick leave to employees,
- establish requirements for providing coronavirus diagnostic testing at no cost to consumers,
- treat personal respiratory protective devices as covered countermeasures that are eligible for certain liability protections, and
- temporarily increase the Medicaid federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP).

3. CORONAVIRUS 3-Pending in the White House and being discussed in Congress

While some Senators may be reluctant to pass HR 6201, others are already laying out what they think should be in the third coronavirus bill.

The White House is preparing a package for the latest response to the economic calamity caused by the coronavirus outbreak": [click here](#)

Some of the requests are coming from off the Hill:

The airline industry is seeking \$58B for lost revenue: [click here](#)

To read United's letter to Congress: [click here](#)

Hospitals report that they need \$1B to deal with the pandemic.

Casinos are also asking for federal support.

In an editorial today, the Wall Street Journal outlined what it thinks Congress should do next to address the coronavirus crisis:

"Ideally the Treasury would present it to the public in a way that also offers more financial relief for individuals whose incomes may also fall as the economy closes. Our preference would be a tax cut rather than more spending or tax rebates that may not get to people for months. The payroll tax cut that Mr. Trump is floating won't stimulate the economy. But it will let Americans keep more of their own take-home pay, and it may be the best of the urgent ideas to cope with an economic pause.

"All of this will take more vigorous leadership and explanation than we've seen so far from the Fed, the Treasury, the White House or Congress. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin has become a junior legislative negotiating partner with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi when he ought to be thinking through the larger financial and economic issues. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell isn't inspiring confidence by copying the 2008 playbook without explaining the current problem and rationale for action.

"The White House will have to lead and offer financial and economic solutions, not merely settle for what Mrs. Pelosi will allow behind closed doors. This means more than random tweets with policy impulses and cheerleading. As flight director Gene Kranz says in 'Apollo 13,' 'work the problem, people.'"