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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4329**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION  
AND CITIZENSHIP

TASK FORCE ON POVERTY AND OPPORTUNITY  
VICE CHAIR ON URBAN POVERTY

June 23, 2020

Vice Admiral Jerome M. Adams, M.D.  
United States Surgeon General  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Pete Gaynor  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
500 C Street, SW, Room 8 SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Admiral Adams and Administrator Gaynor,

We write to you to express our urgent concern about FEMA's withdrawal of fiscal, personnel and administrative support of the COVID-19 testing sites in Houston and Harris County. We need the support of FEMA now more than ever as our communities and the state of Texas see unprecedented growth in cases of the Coronavirus disease.

FEMA currently supports four COVID-19 testing sites in Houston and Harris County. In May, when FEMA made the plan to end support on June 30, we could not have foreseen the continued rise in cases like we have in the past couple of weeks. Texas continues to set records for the number of new cases and hospitalizations and Harris County leads the state in number of confirmed cases. Without FEMA's supplies, fiscal aid and personnel, these sites may no longer be able to serve our communities.

At this time, we must expand the number of people tested per day to prevent further spread of the virus. We must continue to protect our vulnerable communities and the capacity of our healthcare system.

Furthermore, withdrawing support will place a heavy burden on the City of Houston Health Department, Harris County Public Health and their partners. This burden could hinder their continued development of a contact tracing system. Without robust contact tracing, we have very few tools to control the spread of the disease.

FEMA's removal in this moment would be harmful and irresponsible. We urgently ask you to extend FEMA's presence at these testing sites through August 30, 2020. We have also included



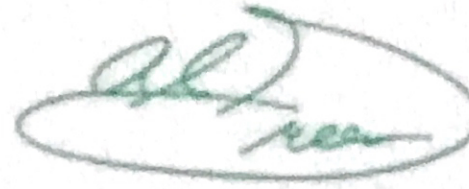
the same request from Dr. David Persse, the Health Authority for the Houston Health Department.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvia R. Garcia".

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Al Green", enclosed within a green oval.

Al Green  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lizzie Fletcher".

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress