

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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**Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney**  
**Committee on Oversight and Reform**  
**Full Committee Business Meeting**  
**Opening Statement on H.R. 7496, the COVID PREPARE Act**  
**September 16, 2020**

I want to thank Representatives Brad Schneider and John Katko for their strong bipartisan work on this good government bill, which has earned it the endorsement of the Problem Solvers Caucus.

I know every colleague in this room, both in person and participating remotely, would agree that the last six months have been a nightmare. We hope that the worst is behind us, but we must be clear-eyed in planning for the possibility that it is not.

Given this uncertainty, it is more urgent than ever that federal agencies prioritize a planning process that ensures the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars and an unwavering commitment to achieving our mission.

This legislation would require each federal agency to submit to Congress an initial action plan for addressing and managing any resurgence in coronavirus cases. To maximize readiness, the plan would draw on what has been learned since the onset of the coronavirus crisis, as well as from previous presidentially declared emergencies.

It would include agency priorities for preparing for and responding to a coronavirus resurgence, measurable goals and timelines for each priority, and plans for addressing challenges, issuing guidance, and consulting with stakeholders, including Congress and the public, while working remotely.

Most importantly, the bill would require agencies to provide a quarterly progress report on those priorities, providing a mechanism for transparency and oversight.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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