



We are disappointed to report that the latest economic stimulus legislation introduced today in the House of Representatives does not include funding specifically for public broadcasting. We are continuing to work with our champions on Capitol Hill to try to secure additional funding for public media in this or a future relief bill.

We are still in the process of analyzing the 1800+ page HEROES Act, and we will share more comprehensive information on the provisions of the legislation shortly. Based on our early review, the legislation includes some provisions that would be helpful to stations.

The HEROES Act includes \$90 billion for Education grants to governors to support K-12, public institutions of higher education (IHEs) and early childhood education. Of the funds received by each State, 65 percent would go to local educational agencies (LEAs) and 30 percent would go to public IHEs. These funds may be used to establish or expand remote learning services of the kind public television stations are already providing, often in formal partnerships with LEAs, in all 50 States.

And public television stations may qualify to apply for funds under a new provision of the HEROES Act intended to help local broadcasters and newspapers report on the pandemic and its related economic consequences.

The legislation would also expand eligibility for the Payroll Protection Program (PPP), making all 501(c)s eligible, which we believe may include some State and university licensees.

The legislation introduced today was crafted entirely by the Democratic majority in the House and it is likely to pass the House on Friday of this week. However, it is not likely to become law as the House and Senate pursue increasingly divergent strategies for dealing with the national emergency.

Hard negotiations will follow, and it may be weeks or months before any consensus is formed about what to do next to stimulate and re-open the economy.

We remain grateful to the Congress for the \$75 million in emergency assistance to public broadcasters included in Phase Two of the stimulus response, resulting in at least \$200,000 for every public television station in the system.

We are advised by the Speaker's office that this bill was intentionally focused on direct COVID mitigation measures and that increased CPB funding will be considered in the context of future COVID-19 relief bills and the regular FY 2021 appropriations process. The House Appropriations Committee remains committed to such increases, and its

leadership was as disappointed as we were that additional emergency funding was not included in the legislation unveiled today.

Not good news - no sugar coating will help - but we will continue our efforts to secure more assistance as the process for the next COVID relief package unfolds in the coming weeks and in future relief packages, as well as concentrating increasingly on the regular annual appropriations process now underway, and we will keep you posted.

Patrick Butler  
President and CEO  
America's Public Television Stations