

KANAWHA COUNTY COMMISSION

Post Office Box 3627
Charleston, West Virginia 25336



Telephone (304) 357-0101
Fax (304) 357-0788
www.kanawha.us

Ben Salango
Commissioner

W. Kent Carper
Commissioner

Lance Wheeler
Commissioner

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator
500 Virginia Street, East
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Senator Capito:

On March 18, 2022, we sent you a letter regarding Federal Funding for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines and a stand-alone bill in the House that included \$10.6 billion for these resources. We now understand that this bill has reached the Senate, and we are again reaching out to you to ask for your support for these funds. Kanawha County continues to battle with the COVID pandemic and has seen a rise in cases over the past month.

As new variants continue to be discovered, we know that our only way to manage the pandemic is by offering testing, vaccines, and treatment, such as monoclonal antibodies. We have been told that many of these resources are becoming limited and quite possibly non-existent. We need to have the ability to continue to offer monoclonal antibody treatment at the clinic that we are so very proud to have set up at the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. Hundreds of lives have been saved due to this clinic.

It is further our understanding that COVID testing is no longer going to be covered by the Federal Government and that insurance companies will have to be billed for the expense, leaving those with no insurance standing alone with no way to be tested because they cannot afford to pay the cost out of pocket. This is our most vulnerable population, and they need to have access to testing.

Kanawha County has prided itself on being the "first" on many occasions during the pandemic to offer mass testing, testing in long-term care facilities, holding large community vaccination clinics, opening the monoclonal antibody clinic, and many other life-saving events for our community. We cannot stand by and watch the possibility of our community losing the ability to receive free testing, treatment, and vaccines to keep them safe, out of the hospitals, and quite frankly, alive.



Funding is still needed to support the pandemic life-saving efforts. We know you understand this as your people have been right there with us many times at COVID vaccination clinics, helping to serve the public. We have been and still are all in this together.

We graciously ask you to support the continued COVID funding and support the stand-alone bill that has reached the Senate. We thank you for all you do for Kanawha County and the great State of West Virginia.

Sincerely,



W. Kent Carper
President



Ben Salango
Commissioner



Lance Wheeler
Commissioner

KANAWHA COUNTY COMMISSION

Post Office Box 3627
Charleston, West Virginia 25336



Telephone (304) 357-0101
Fax (304) 357-0788
www.kanawha.us

Ben Salango
Commissioner

W. Kent Carper
Commissioner

Lance Wheeler
Commissioner

March 18, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator
900 Pennsylvania Avenue
Suite 629
Charleston, WV 25302

Dear Senator Manchin:

On March 18, 2022, we sent you a letter regarding Federal Funding for COVID-19 treatments and vaccines and a stand-alone bill in the House that included \$10.6 billion for these resources. We now understand that this bill has reached the Senate, and we are again reaching out to you to ask for your support for these funds. Kanawha County continues to battle with the COVID pandemic and has seen a rise in cases over the past month.

As new variants continue to be discovered, we know that our only way to manage the pandemic is by offering testing, vaccines, and treatment, such as monoclonal antibodies. We have been told that many of these resources are becoming limited and quite possibly non-existent. We need to have the ability to continue to offer monoclonal antibody treatment at the clinic that we are so very proud to have set up at the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. Hundreds of lives have been saved due to this clinic.

It is further our understanding that COVID testing is no longer going to be covered by the Federal Government and that insurance companies will have to be billed for the expense, leaving those with no insurance standing alone with no way to be tested because they cannot afford to pay the cost out of pocket. This is our most vulnerable population, and they need to have access to testing.

Kanawha County has prided itself on being the "first" on many occasions during the pandemic to offer mass testing, testing in long-term care facilities, holding large community vaccination clinics, opening the monoclonal antibody clinic, and many other life-saving events for our community. We cannot stand by and watch the possibility of our community losing the ability to receive free testing, treatment, and vaccines to keep them safe, out of the hospitals, and quite frankly, alive.



Funding is still needed to support the pandemic life-saving efforts. We know you understand this as your people have been right there with us many times at COVID vaccination clinics, helping to serve the public. We have been and still are all in this together.

We graciously ask you to support the continued COVID funding and support the stand-alone bill that has reached the Senate. We thank you for all you do for Kanawha County and the great State of West Virginia.

Sincerely,



W. Kent Carper
President



Ben Salango
Commissioner



Lance Wheeler
Commissioner