

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2020

Hon. James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip
U.S. House of Reps.
H-329, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20512

Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney
Oversight & Reform Cmte.
U.S. House of Reps.
2157 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Adam Smith
Armed Services Cmte.
U.S. House of Reps.
2216 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Whip Clyburn, Chairwoman Maloney, and Chairman Smith:

As Co-Chairs of the Defense Spending Reduction Caucus, we write to you with great concern over the reporting contained in this morning's *Washington Post* entitled: "Pentagon Used Taxpayer Money Meant for Masks and Swabs to Make Jet Engine Parts and Body Armor", and urge you to commence oversight investigations and public hearings into this matter immediately.

As stated by Washington Post reporters Aaron Gregg and Yeganeh Torbati: "A \$1 billion fund Congress gave the Pentagon in March to build up the country's supplies of medical equipment has instead been mostly funneled to defense contractors and used for making things such as jet engine parts, body armor, and dress uniforms." If true, this is unacceptable.

More than 200,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, and the CARES Act was passed to address the needs of the American people during this global pandemic. For the Administration to choose to use funds Congress made available to fight COVID-19 on the wish lists of defense contractors, instead of first protecting troops and the general public from the spread of the coronavirus, is unconscionable and should be investigated fully and prosecuted if warranted.

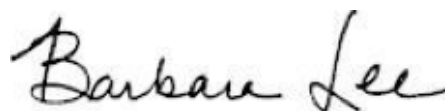
Page 240 of the CARES Act, Public Law 116-136, clearly states that \$1 billion was "to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally." Congress was clear as to the purpose of the appropriation. We encourage you to review the legality of the Department of Defense's spending decisions and every possible remedy.

We thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and stand ready to work with you to address it appropriately.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress