

Rep. Gallagher statement on H.R. 6800

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) today released the following statement after voting against H.R. 6800.

“This \$3 trillion, 1,800 page bill drafted by Democratic leadership behind closed doors is anything but a Coronavirus relief package. It’s a partisan wishlist that not only highlights the breakdown of our modern Congress, but further delays our ability to get assistance to Americans when we have no time to waste.

“Put aside the fact that this bill was written without any hint of bipartisan discussion while Speaker Pelosi kept Congress out of session, and ask yourself: how does sending federal tax dollars to illegal immigrants, encouraging the financial sector to work with cannabis businesses, or giving tax breaks to millionaires help us get out of this crisis? The simple answer is it doesn’t. All this bill serves to do is further erode Americans’ trust in their government.

“The idea that anyone would use the pandemic as an opportunity to advance priorities unrelated to this crisis is unconscionable, and further highlights the need for Congress to immediately reconvene. We can’t continue to fly into D.C. for mere hours at a time only to vote on multi-trillion dollar bills no one has read or debated. Our work in Congress is as essential today as it has ever been. It’s time we act like it.”

Included in H.R. 6800 are provisions that would:

- Allow illegal immigrants to receive direct stimulus payments because the bill does not require social security number verification.
- Extend the \$600 unemployment supplement through Jan. 31, 2021, and in some cases through March 31, 2021, meaning businesses must compete with unemployment benefits for workers through spring of 2021.
- Provide a tax break for millionaires and billionaires by repealing SALT limitations for 2020 and 2021.
- Mandate a blanket release for certain covered federal prisoners and alleged criminals, while imposing a burden for the government to prove they present a risk of harm to society upon release.
- Impose a one-size-fits-all OSHA rule on all employers, which is counterproductive given the ever-changing circumstances created by COVID-19.
- Extend Phase Two employer mandates on paid leave for an extra year, expand requirements to all businesses, and subject small businesses to lawsuits for alleged violations.
- Federalize elections by including stringent mandates on how states must run elections, including early voting, no ID requirement for in-person voting, same-day registration, and no-excuse vote by mail in addition to providing absentee ballots to all registered voters without restrictions on ballot harvesting.
- Amend SNAP policy with no reference to the Coronavirus and permanently disallows rulemaking pertaining to work requirements and eligibility.
- Allow the financial sector to serve cannabis businesses.