

U.S. Sen. Baldwin, Colleagues: Tell Pres. Trump to immediately and fully use all Defense Production Act authorities to mobilize war-scale manufacturing effort of respirators, ventilators, test kits, other medical equipment

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin today joined 19 of her Senate colleagues in decrying President Donald Trump’s partial invocation of the Defense Production Act (DPA), which ignored other key titles in the Act that provide essential tools for rapidly scaling up our national response to the spread of the novel coronavirus. The Senators are calling on Trump to immediately implement all Defense Production Act powers under Titles I, III, and VII as necessary to massively scale up production of testing kits, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) such as respirators and gloves, ventilators, and other critical materials that our country needs during the coronavirus emergency.

“Our domestic industries are ready and waiting for the call to respond to the critical ongoing shortages of key medical equipment and supplies,” **write the senators in their letter to President Trump.** “But they need capital, federal contracts, and other assurances in order to act. We can activate America’s ingenuity and resolve by immediately providing that financial incentive and direction through the full use

of DPA authorities. We urge you to move forward in using these authorities immediately, for the sake of the health and well-being of the American people.”

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

The President’s executive order issued days ago invokes only components of Title I of the DPA and delegates its authorities to Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar. In their letter, the Senators explain that implementing Title III authorities would allow the executive branch to provide financial incentives to industry, including loans, direct purchases, and purchase commitments, as well as to further help repurpose private manufacturing capabilities to enable manufacturers to produce the materials we need in this crisis, something other countries like South Korea and France are doing. The Senators also highlight that Title VII empowers the President to establish voluntary agreements with private industry and direct coordinated industry efforts and production.

In their letter, the Senators also urged President Trump to follow the advice of his own public health officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services and stop referring to the current coronavirus in an inflammatory and xenophobic manner.

The letter was led by Senators Sherrod Brown and Ed Markey and also signed by Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Angus King (I-ME), Doug Jones (D-AL), Tom Carper (D-DE), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Jack Reed (D-RI), Tom Udall (D-NM), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Mark Warner (D-VA), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Bob Casey (D-PA), and Tina Smith (D-MN).

An online version of this release is available [here](#).