

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2021

General Gustave Perna
Chief Operating Officer
Operation Warp Speed
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear General Perna and Secretary Azar:

We write with regard to Operation Warp Speed (OWS)'s efforts to fairly distribute COVID-19 vaccines to the American people. To ensure Florida is equipped to complete its vaccination distribution plan as expediently as possible, we request that OWS take steps to increase the vaccine allocation amount to the State of Florida to account for seasonal residents.

Each winter, close to one million visitors make Florida their temporary home, and that visitation is a vital component of Florida's economy. While some individuals have chosen not to travel this year, estimates still show that thousands of non-Floridians plan to winter in the Sunshine State.

Through cutting-edge innovation and dedication, our nation's scientists delivered a safe and effective vaccine in record time, and millions of Americans across the country have been vaccinated, including more than 707,478 individuals in Florida. In pursuit of an end to the pandemic and in the interest of the health of all individuals currently residing in Florida, the State of Florida has committed to vaccinate both residents and non-residents. Consequently, the vaccine is also currently available to all individuals over the age of 65 regardless of residency. This has understandably put a strain on the limited allotment. In order for an effective level of vaccinations to occur in a timely and equitable manner, federal allocation allotments to states must ensure they account for all populations residing in a state, not just those that are residents.

To that end, we request that OWS take steps to coordinate with the State of Florida to increase the vaccine allocation to account for the number of seasonal residents. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to devastate our nation, it is critically important that all individuals in Florida receive the vaccine as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

/s/ Carlos Gimenez
Carlos Gimenez
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress