

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Calling on the President to invoke the Defense Production Act to respond to COVID-19.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Calling on the President to invoke the Defense Production Act to respond to COVID-19.

Whereas the Defense Production Act of 1950 originated from World War II authorities and confers an “array of authorities to shape national defense preparedness programs”;

Whereas the United States currently faces severe shortages of medical supplies necessary to respond to the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, such as materials needed to test for COVID-19, ventilators and personal protective equipment;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is “encouraging healthcare systems to implement strategies to conserve supplies”;

Whereas on February 29, 2020, the New York Times reported that a 2005 Federal study estimated that mechanical ventilators for 740,000 critically ill people would be necessary in the event of a severe flu pandemic, and “today, as the country faces the possibility of a widespread outbreak of a new respiratory infection caused by the coronavirus, there are nowhere near that many ventilators, and most are already in use”; and

Whereas failure to massively upscale the supplies available to protect Americans, test for new cases of COVID-19, and treat people who test positive could result in even more severe shortages that force health care workers to make harrowing choices and endanger American lives: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls upon the President to make urgent use
3 of all relevant authorities of the Defense Production
4 Act of 1950 to direct the domestic production of
5 supplies needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic;

6 (2) calls upon the President to immediately
7 share with Congress plans for the use of the Defense
8 Production Act authorities, including targets and
9 timelines for the production of supplies needed to
10 address the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the re-
11 sults of the ongoing use of these authorities; and

1 (3) stands ready to make additional appropria-
2 tions available to meet the needs of Defense Produc-
3 tion Act invocation.