



601 E Street, NW | Washington, DC 20049
202-434-2277 | 1-888-OUR-AARP | 1-888-687-2277 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
www.aarp.org | twitter: @aarp | facebook.com/aarp | youtube.com/aarp

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
U.S. House of Representatives
2307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Francis Rooney
U.S. House of Representatives
120 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Doggett, Schakowsky, and Rooney:

AARP, on behalf of its nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, is pleased to endorse H.R. 7288, the Taxpayer Research and Coronavirus Knowledge (TRACK) Act of 2020, to help better understand the allocation of federal dollars to develop treatments and vaccines for COVID-19. We thank you for working in a bipartisan manner to help increase transparency of the taxpayer investment in this important work.

Congress has appropriated approximately \$7 billion to research and develop COVID-19 treatments and vaccines, with potentially more funding in subsequent relief packages. In addition, the National Institute of Health had previously spent \$700 million to research the coronavirus. The Department of Health and Humans Services has already provided at least \$2 billion of these new funds to drug manufacturers. Given the significant investment of federal funds, it is critical that we have publicly available data to fully understand the investment that taxpayers have made in developing potential treatments and vaccines for COVID-19.

The TRACK Act will better enable consumers and policymakers to understand the level of taxpayer investment by creating a single database to track how federal funds have been spent and which drug manufacturers have received significant federal support. This information is critical to hold pharmaceutical companies accountable and hopefully to serve as a disincentive for them to price-gouge Americans for the COVID-19 drugs they paid to develop.

AARP appreciates your leadership in helping to improve transparency for federal investments in critical treatments to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Amy Kelbick on our Government Affairs staff at akelbick@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bill Sweeney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs