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United States Senate

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January 26, 2021

The Honorable Norris Cochran
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Bob Fenton
Acting Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Secretary Cochran and Administrator Fenton:

I write to strongly advocate for additional vaccination personnel and vaccine doses for the state of Arizona.

Arizona currently is suffering from the worst coronavirus outbreak in the country, when measured as the number of cases per 100,000 people. Our hospitals and vaccination sites are overwhelmed by the level of demand, and Arizonans in Phase 1A and priority 1B groups must wait hours online or by phone to secure even their first appointments. Recent reporting also noted one 85 year old Arizonan who traveled 400 miles to receive her first vaccine shot. The situation in Arizona is simply unacceptable.

Arizona is also home to a disproportionately large number of at-risk populations including seniors, those with serious pre-existing conditions, tribal and underserved communities, snowbird populations, and our critical workforce (including federal employees along the southern border and agricultural workers essential to our nation's food supply). In speaking to state and county public health officials, all have identified the number of doses our state receives as the ultimate barrier to getting more Arizonans vaccinated and saving lives.

It is my understanding that Arizona Governor Doug Ducey and the Arizona Department of Health Services' Dr. Cara Christ have submitted a request for additional vaccinators and vaccine doses. Specifically, the state of Arizona has requested an immediate, emergency infusion of 300,000 vaccine doses, and an additional 300,000 doses a week on top of our state's regular allocations. I ask that these requests be granted in a timely manner and to the extent possible as vaccine production allows. I am also including a copy of the letter Dr. Christ wrote to me regarding the state's asks.

My team and I stand ready to provide any assistance to help Arizona meet its vaccination goals. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator