

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 5, 2021

Jeff Zients
COVID-19 Coordinator
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Zients:

We write to support the request made by the state of Arizona for an immediate emergency infusion of 300,000 vaccine doses and an additional 300,000 doses a week. It is our understanding that Arizona Governor Doug Ducey and Arizona Department of Health Services Director Dr. Cara Christ submitted a request for additional vaccine doses that was denied. Arizona state and county public health officials have all identified the number of doses our state receives as a huge barrier to more Arizonans receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and saving lives.

Arizona is suffering from one of the worst coronavirus outbreaks in the country across several metrics, but most notably in the seven-day average of cases per capita. Our state is home to a disproportionately large number of at-risk populations, including seniors, those with serious preexisting conditions, tribal and medically underserved communities, snowbird populations, and critical workers (including federal employees along the southern border and other ports of entry, and agricultural workers essential to our nation's food supply). Even while hospitals, community health centers, and pharmacies stand ready to vaccinate thousands a day, they do not have the needed vaccine doses. While we appreciate the recent increase in allocations to states, it was not enough to meet Arizona's needs or increase availability in our hardest-hit communities.

Arizonans in Phase 1A and 1B groups must wait hours online or on the phone to secure even their first vaccination appointments. There are reports of some elderly Arizonans driving up to 400 miles to be vaccinated due to a scarcity of vaccines in their own communities. The state has opened two mass vaccination sites in Maricopa County that have helped increase Arizona's vaccination capacity. One site has the ability to vaccinate up to 6,000 people a day, and the other is currently vaccinating 500 a day but has the capacity to vaccinate thousands. The ability to increase throughput at these sites or to open additional large sites in other areas of Arizona is limited by vaccine availability. County public health departments have also seen their allocations from the state reduced recently, and it is clear that Arizona is not receiving enough vaccine doses to equitably meet the needs of all vaccination sites.

Given the impact of the virus on our state, we ask that Arizona's request for an immediate 300,000 vaccine doses and an increase of 300,000 doses to our weekly allocation be granted. We stand ready to provide any assistance to help Arizona manage this additional allocation and to meet its vaccination goals, especially in our rural and medically underserved communities. Thank you and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. Senator



Mark Kelly
U.S. Senator