



*The coronavirus pandemic in the United States is getting worse because of President Trump. Full stop. The seeds of this public health disaster were planted on President Trump's first day in office.*

### **Volume #1: Trump's War on American Health Care**

From his first day in office, President Trump has shown that he doesn't value the American people's health care or public health. In fact, his first act as president was to sign an executive order instructing all his cabinet agencies to begin dismantling the Affordable Care Act (ACA). What has followed has been nearly four years of an administration that has done more to rip health care away from Americans than to help them gain it. And when President Trump's plan to repeal the law in Congress failed, he and his administration continued their campaign to sabotage the law at every turn while pursuing its complete dismantling in the courts.

What does all this have to do with the coronavirus crisis in the U.S.? Quite a lot:

- As a result of President Trump's sabotage of the law, the uninsured rate has increased every year he has been in office — and millions more Americans are uninsured as a result. That's millions of Americans who lack coverage if they get sick from the coronavirus or develop long-term complications. Worse still, he is pushing a lawsuit that's now before the Supreme Court to overturn the ACA, which could lead to the elimination of coverage for more than 20 million Americans and the termination of Medicaid expansion, end protections for as many as 133 million Americans with preexisting conditions and spike costs for millions of others, including seniors.
- Junk insurance plans, which have been pushed by the Trump administration to undermine the ACA, do not provide comprehensive coverage and are therefore not required to cover COVID-19 tests, which can cost thousands of dollars. These plans come with high out-of-pocket costs, large deductibles, and no guarantee that any

treatment for coronavirus and related health problems would be covered by such plans.

- And of course, President Trump's relentless war on the ACA and repeated efforts to slash Medicaid and Medicare have created an entire administration that devalues the health care of the American people.

While Congress is focused on the immediate response — shoring up our health care system, protecting workers and small businesses from economic devastation and stimulating the economy, among other things — President Trump's efforts to repeal and sabotage American health care have real and significant consequences for the coronavirus response. The president and his allies must:

- Drop the lawsuit that threatens the health care of millions.
- Eliminate junk plans, which undermine the ACA and don't guarantee coverage or protections for people with pre-existing conditions.
- Re-open open enrollment so Americans can shop for plans and get covered.
- Withdraw unnecessary and burdensome Medicaid waivers, such as those that permit block grants and work requirements, that undermine coverage.

## **Volume #2: Decimating Pandemic Response**

The Trump administration's sabotage of health care does not stop at increasing costs and reducing coverage. It also includes failing to adequately protect Americans from infectious disease outbreaks. From proposed budget cuts to leaving key positions unfilled to making it harder for people to access health care, President Trump has worked the last three years to undermine and dismantle our pandemic response apparatus, leaving Americans more vulnerable to the coronavirus

In 2018, President Trump dismantled the entire global health security unit at the National Security Council, reassigning Rear Admiral Timothy Ziemer, a long-time public health official who led the unit, and forcing out homeland security adviser Tom Bossert, another key official for coordinating infectious disease preparedness.

In addition, Trump did nothing to replenish funds for the global health section of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 2017, the Washington Post reported that Trump had

“failed to fill crucial public health positions across the government, leaving the nation ill-prepared” for a global pandemic.

If all this isn't bad enough, President Trump's current budget proposal, submitted to Congress after this outbreak began in China, once again seeks cuts to key programs for global disease response and domestic preparedness. In his 2021 budget, Trump proposed steep cuts to the two agencies in charge of the coronavirus response, seeking to reduce NIH funding by \$3.7 billion and CDC funding by \$1.29 billion. He previously proposed cutting global health funding in his 2020 budget from more than \$11 billion to less than \$8 billion, its lowest level since 2008. Per Foreign Policy, other Trump-backed efforts included a proposal for “reducing \$15 billion in national health spending and cutting the global disease-fighting operational budgets of the CDC, NSC, DHS, and HHS.”

And what do all these cuts and proposed cuts to pandemic response and preparedness and health care, including over \$1 trillion in proposed cuts to Medicare and Medicaid coincide with? Trump's obscene tax cuts for billionaires, Wall Street, and corporate America. In Trump's presidency, the health of millions of Americans has taken a back seat to tax cuts for the richest Americans.

### **Volume #3: Trump's Fragile Economy Left Americans Vulnerable**

Workers are being laid off at an unprecedented pace; the stock market has plummeted to the point of erasing all gains made since Trump's inauguration; and the economy is almost certainly heading toward a recession.

There's no question that Trump's mismanagement of the coronavirus crisis severely worsened the pandemic's impact on our economy. His failure to fully accept the severity of the moment and take action early worsened the spread, and his numerous incorrect claims unnecessarily rattled financial markets.

But our current economic troubles were a long time coming. Part of the reason our economy was so vulnerable to coronavirus is that many people were already hurting and struggling, and most Americans hadn't felt any benefits from Trump's economy. Wages were stagnant and costs were too high, so when the crisis hit, there was no buffer. Tax cuts for the rich and wealthy corporations failed to trickle down to workers. Factories and farmers struggled because of Trump's reckless trade policies. And now, Trump's short-sighted economic policies weakened some of the tools available to fight the downturn.

**The coronavirus outbreak is hurting sectors that were already stretched to their breaking point by Trump's reckless trade policies and broken promises:**

- U.S. manufacturing was already on unstable footing when the coronavirus hit. Manufacturing hasn't kept pace with the overall economy, and industrial output fell by [1.2 percent](#) last year. In fact, U.S. manufacturing was in a mild [recession](#) for the entirety of 2019, as factory production shrank by 1.3 percent. And now, the weakened manufacturing and transportation sectors have [slowed the supply](#) of vital products amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- Farmers were struggling because of Trump's reckless trade policies and false promises about increased purchases. While Trump continued to claim he had saved U.S. agriculture, farm bankruptcies increased by nearly [20 percent](#) in 2019, and Trump's own Department of Agriculture said that it expected farm debt in 2020 to rise to a record [\\$425 billion](#).
- The retail industry cut more than [75,000 jobs](#) last year and closed more than [9,300 stores](#), a huge spike from the previous year.

**Trump's economic policies benefited the rich while leaving millions of Americans vulnerable to the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak:**

- [More than half](#) of American jobs are at risk and [millions](#) have already lost jobs or hours because of the coronavirus outbreak, which only exacerbates the struggles for working families. About [half](#) of Americans already live paycheck to paycheck and [many](#) worry daily about being able to pay their bills, as household debt hit a record high of [\\$14 trillion](#) at the end of 2019.

**Trump's economy is built on shaky foundations of short-term stimuli and corporate debt:**

- The coronavirus outbreak has already begun to take a [toll](#) on consumer spending, which was a [rare](#) bright spot and one of the few factors keeping Trump's economy on stable footing.
- Corporations racked up [\\$19 trillion](#) in debt that made the economy more vulnerable to a downturn after spending the money they got from Trump's tax cuts on stock [buybacks](#) for themselves and their wealthy shareholders. Despite Trump's promises, corporations did next to nothing to boost workers's paychecks.

**Trump's short-sighted economic policies weakened some of the tools available to fight the downturn:**

- Despite inheriting a strong economy, Trump racked up [\\$1 trillion](#) deficits by pushing massive tax cuts that [didn't](#) provide a sustained economy boost to benefit workers like he promised.
- Trump [forced](#) the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates because of his reckless trade policies, leaving it with little room to lower rates even further and [half as much](#) firepower as it did going into the last recession.
- Trump's tax law eliminated provisions to help companies [avoid laying off workers](#) during an economic downturn in order to help fund a [bigger cut](#) to the corporate tax rate.

**The bottom line:** Trump created a fragile economy that was especially vulnerable to the downturn that resulted from the coronavirus outbreak. Despite his promises, the gap between the richest Americans and everyone else grew bigger than ever under his watch, making it more difficult for working Americans during this economic downturn. Once the coronavirus hit, Trump's lies and failed response only made things worse.

#### [Volume #4: In a Public Health Outbreak, The President's Lies Could be Deadly](#)

In a public health emergency like the global coronavirus pandemic we are now facing, it's vital that the public be told honestly the severity of the crisis, the level of preparedness of the government and the public health system, what steps to take to prevent the spread of the virus, and what to expect in terms of disruption to people's lives and the economy. Yet President Trump, in an effort to protect his own poll numbers and boost his chances for reelection, has lied about all these things and misled the public in virtually every public appearance and speech on the issue since the crisis began.

His efforts to downplay the seriousness of this crisis has real consequences for public health as polls show many Americans are not treating the virus seriously enough and are ignoring the advice of public health experts to stay home and avoid public gatherings - increasing the likelihood that the coronavirus will continue to spread. Among the president's misleading statements and blatant lies:

- Claims that the virus has been contained and will soon disappear:
  - "We have it totally under control. It's one person coming in from China, and we have it under control. It's going to be just fine." 1/22/20, CNBC
  - "We pretty much shut it down coming in from China." 2/2/20 Sean Hannity interview

- “Looks like by April, you know, in theory, when it gets a little warmer, it miraculously goes away.” 2/10/20 campaign rally.
  - “When you have 15, and the 15 within a couple of days is going to be down to close to zero, that’s a pretty good job we’ve done.” 2/26/20 news conference
  - Regarding community spread: “I don’t think it’s inevitable. It probably will. It possibly will. It could be at a very small level, or it could be at a larger level. Whatever happens, we’re totally prepared.” 2/26/20 news conference
  - “This blindsided the world. And I think we’ve handled it very, very well.” 3/9/20 news conference
  - “This is the most aggressive and comprehensive effort to confront a foreign virus in modern history.” 3/11/20 Oval Office address
  - “It’s something that we have tremendous control over.” 3/15/20 news conference
  - “Many states don’t have a problem.” 3/25/20 news conference
- Claims that the coronavirus is similar to the seasonal flu and has an overblown death rate:
    - “This is a flu. This is like a flu.” 2/26/20 news conference
    - “I think the 3.4 percent is really a false number. Now, this is just my hunch, and — but based on a lot of conversations with a lot of people that do this.” 3/4/20 Sean Hannity interview.
    - “I think we’re substantially under 1 percent because the people that get better are not reporting.” 3/24/20 Fox News town hall
    - “We lose thousands and thousands of people a year to the flu. We don’t turn the country off.” 3/24/20 Fox News town hall
- Claims that the U.S. nearly has a coronavirus vaccine and game-changing treatments ready to go, and that testing and treatment are readily available for all:
    - “We’re very close to a vaccine.” 2/25/20 news conference
    - “The companies are the best in the world and they’re working on it and they think they’re pretty close to having it... But they have other things that can help — I guess I’d use the word ‘cure’ it, fix it.” 3/2/20 local interview
    - “Anybody that wants a test can get a test.” 3/6/20 remarks at CDC
    - “I met with the leaders of health insurance industry, who have agreed to waive all copayments for coronavirus treatments.” 3/11/20 Oval Office address
    - “Ultimately, a vaccine, which takes a little bit longer because of the test periods and a couple of other reasons, you’re going to have it very quickly because of the great knowledge.” 3/13/20 news conference
    - “Normally the FDA would take a long time to approve something like that, and it’s -- it was approved very, very quickly and it’s now approved by prescription.” 3/19/20 news conference

- “HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE & AZITHROMYCIN, taken together, have a real chance to be one of the biggest game changers in the history of medicine.”  
3/21/20 tweet
- “The testing is going very well.” 3/21/20 news conference

Needless to say, as the Washington Post and other news outlets have shown, all these claims, some which President Trump made on several occasions, are false or misleading. The U.S. does not have the coronavirus outbreak under control, it won't miraculously disappear when it gets warm, and we aren't close to a vaccine. Insurance companies have not agreed to waive copayments for treatments, it's a damnable and verifiable lie that anyone who wants to be tested can get tested, it is not just like the flu, and the world--certainly the U.S.--was not entirely blindsided by this and squandered weeks of preparation time.

### **Volume #5: Trump's Testing Travesty**

The Trump administration's development and distribution of coronavirus testing has been an unmitigated disaster, marked by technical issues, bureaucratic problems and lack of leadership. Don't take our word for it — as Dr. Fauci said, [“Yeah, it is a failing, let's admit it.”](#)

Now, instead of taking responsibility, Trump is trying to pass blame on to states and hospitals who are begging for his help getting more tests. He mocked them, saying, [“We're the federal government, we're not supposed to stand on street corners doing testing.”](#)

Consider this: the U.S. and South Korea had their first confirmed coronavirus case on the same day — January 20. But the U.S. remains far behind South Korea on per capita coronavirus testing. Why? Because Trump delayed efforts to expand coronavirus testing for nearly two months, at enormous cost to our country, wasting precious time needed to stop the spread of the virus.

First, Trump repeatedly downplayed the testing supply shortage, promising in early March that “anybody that wants a test can get a test” when that simply was not true. While he falsely claimed that “testing has been going very smooth,” labs faced a huge testing backlog and states still awaited testing equipment.

Trump's failure to immediately address the testing shortage had dire consequences. Health experts and local officials confirmed that his botched rollout of testing prevented them from knowing the spread of the virus early, rendering it virtually impossible to contain.

Trump's testing travesty is the genie that can't be put back in the bottle. His failure to test allowed the virus to spread rapidly and undetected. Because wide scale testing was not available, more people are sick, more people have died, and there is exponentially higher disruption to our economy and lives.

**Trump botched coronavirus testing efforts from the start and has failed to catch up as the pandemic worsens.**

- On [January 20](#), the U.S and South Korea both had their first confirmed coronavirus cases. Instead of adopting the WHO's test, the CDC put out its own test kit that had to be [halted](#) after reports that it was producing [inclusive](#) results.
- By early February, the WHO had shipped [250,000](#) diagnostic tests, while the CDC was shipping about 160,000 tests around the country, most of which would be deemed unusable because of fault results.
- By mid February, just [2,009](#) coronavirus tests had been conducted nationwide, while South Korea tested roughly 1,000 people per day.
- As the U.S. experienced problems developing its test, CDC officials established [very limited](#) criteria for who could be tested, which hid the coronavirus epidemic as community spread took off.
- The CDC moved [too slowly](#) to tap into the expertise of academia and private companies, making it [harder](#) to expand testing and setting the U.S. far behind other countries in test production and distribution.
- Internal emails showed [confusion](#) at the CDC as the agency underestimated the threat of the virus early on in the outbreak and [struggled](#) to communicate effectively with local officials about containment and mitigation.

**Even as new tests were developed, Trump overpromised and underdelivered.**

- The CDC director expressed [doubt](#) in early March that labs had enough materials to conduct the coronavirus tests, while Trump and Azar dismissed concerns.
- As laboratory workers warned of [dire shortages](#) of testing supplies, Azar suggested reports of shortages were "[anecdotal](#)" and caused by confusion about how to find alternative products.
- While Trump assured Americans that "with each passing day, our increasingly extensive testing capabilities are giving us a better understanding of the virus and its path," [catastrophic shortages](#) of supplies forced states to act creatively and on their own acquire and distribute samples for testing.
- In late March, Trump [denied](#) hearing of any testing problems, even as states across the country continued reporting shortages of testing kits.
- To cover up for his testing failure, Trump began to tout accomplishments that didn't live up to the hype. Trump touted the opening of drive-thru testing sites, but only a few have opened nationwide and [none](#) were open to the general public.

- And during a Rose Garden briefing in April, Trump touted the availability of a rapid test to expand capacity, yet states are only expected to get [15](#) machines maximum and only 100 tests each.

**Trump repeatedly downplayed concerns about testing shortages and refused to take responsibility for his administration’s failed response on testing.**

- Trump downplayed the testing shortage in the U.S. and falsely claimed testing was a success:
  - March 6: “[Anybody that wants a test can get a test.](#)”
  - March 12: “[Testing has been going very smooth.](#)”
  - March 12: “[In some cases...we have too many](#)” tests.
  - March 13: “[I doubt we’ll need anywhere near](#)” 5 million tests.
  - March 13: “[We’ll have the ability to do in the millions](#)” of tests “over a very, very quick period of time.”
- Trump touted high numbers of overall testing in the U.S. as evidence that the testing issue was conquered, but the U.S. [still lagged](#) other countries in per capita testing:
  - March 24: “I learned it actually this afternoon: In eight days — because we kept hearing about South Korea.... [In eight days, we’re doing more testing than they’ve done in eight weeks.](#) That’s a tremendous turn. And with our testing, it’s going — exponentially, it’s going up, up, up every day.”
  - March 30: “[Over 1 million Americans have now been tested](#) — more than any other country, by far; not even close — and tested accurately.”
  - March 30: “[The numbers have been incredible on testing,](#) but in the days ahead, we’re going to go even faster.”
  - March 30: The U.S. is “[very much on par](#)” with testing per capita compared to other countries.
- Trump [falsely](#) blamed past administrations for faulty COVID-19 tests and nonexistent regulations for his own failure to produce sufficient testing:
  - March 13: “[I don’t take responsibility](#)” for the government’s failure to product sufficient testing “because we were given a — a set of circumstances and we were given rules, regulations, and specifications from a different time.”
  - March 13: “For decades the @CDCgov looked at, and studied, its testing system, but did nothing about it. It would always be inadequate and slow for a large scale pandemic, but a pandemic would never happen, they hoped. [President Obama made changes that only complicated things further.](#)”
  - April 3: “The original test — [the ones we inherited...](#) [they were — they were broken.](#)”

**[Volume #6: Trump Rolled Over For China](#)**

As the scope of President Trump's abject failure to protect Americans' health and livelihoods from the coronavirus pandemic becomes clearer, the White House and the Trump campaign have pivoted to shifting blame onto China for concealing the true extent of the COVID-19 threat. There is no question that China must be held accountable. But Trump has proven that he's not capable of doing that. He spent weeks and weeks offering absurd flattery of China and unwarranted praise for its transparency as the crisis developed.

The contrast couldn't be clearer. In February, Vice-President Biden publicly warned Trump not to take China's word, saying, "I would not be taking China's word for it. I would insist that China allow our scientists in to make a hard determination of how it started, where it's from, how far along it is. Because that is not happening now." Instead of holding China accountable and prioritizing Americans' health, Trump rolled over for China and got played on both trade and the epidemic that has halted the U.S. economy and killed or sickened hundreds of thousands of Americans.

These are the facts:

- Trump has been making big promises about being tough on China for a very long time. He claimed at the start of his 2016 campaign that China "will give us everything we want. That won't even be a hard negotiation."
- But Trump never followed through on his bluster. His reckless trade policies pushed farmers and manufacturers to the brink and he was forced to make concessions to China without making any progress toward a level playing field for American industry.
- Trump's failure to stand up to China is one of his biggest vulnerabilities. He knows his chaotic policies bankrupted farms and pushed manufacturing into recession, and to simply start cleaning up the damage he's done, he needs China to bail him out by making big purchases of U.S. goods in an election year.
- Trump entered this election year in need of a deal to stop the bleeding his trade policies had caused, but at the very same time China was misleading the world on the severity of the virus. He was so desperate for a deal that he knowingly let China's mismanagement of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed tens of thousands of Americans and wrecked our economy, go completely unchallenged.
- Trump is now grasping at straws as he tries to cover up his dereliction, pointing to his so-called China travel ban as evidence he acted early and decisively to stop the virus. But it has become abundantly clear that his travel ban was far too little, and too late.

We'd say Trump is weak on China, but that's an understatement. Trump rolled over in a way that has been catastrophic for our country. He did nothing for months because he put himself and his political fortunes first. He refused to push China on its coronavirus response and delayed taking action to mitigate the crisis in an effort to not upset Beijing and secure a limited trade deal that has largely gone unfulfilled. Take a look:

**Trump's response to the virus was delayed by a desire to avoid upsetting China as he sought a deal to begin undoing the damage caused by his trade policies.**

- [New York Times](#): “Decision-making was also complicated by a long-running dispute inside the administration over how to deal with China. The virus at first took a back seat to a desire not to upset Beijing during trade talks.”

**In January and February 2020, Trump’s senior advisors were preoccupied with ensuring coronavirus would not interfere with trade negotiations.**

- [KUDLOW](#): “The United States And China reached a major historic phase one trade agreement. The two countries are engaging as never before. We have to work through issues on trade, on the economy, on human rights, on national security, and now on public health.”
- [KUDLOW](#): “China’s leader Xi Jinping reassured U.S. President Donald Trump in a phone call that Beijing would meet purchase goals outlined in the recent trade deal between the countries -- despite the impact of the coronavirus on the Asian nation, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said Friday.”
- [KUDLOW](#): “‘Xi apparently reassured President Trump in this phone call that while there might be some delays in the purchase of American exports, the markers of \$200 billion over the next couple of years, will in fact be met,’ Kudlow said.”
- [MNUCHIN](#): “Mnuchin acknowledged the outbreak could also delay the start of negotiations on deepening the trade deal with Beijing and reaching a phase two agreement, but said he was not worried about that at this point.”
- [New York Times](#): “Several top advisers to Mr. Trump have advocated restraint — notably Jared Kushner, Mr. Trump’s son-in-law; Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury secretary; and Larry Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council. They argue that the two superpowers need to work together to suppress the virus and resuscitate the global economy, and that Mr. Trump should not jeopardize a trade deal that the two nations reached last December.”

**As Trump came close to locking his phase one trade deal with China, he and his administration repeatedly praised China and President Xi.**

January 15, 2020:

- TRUMP: [“We have a great relationship with China, we have a great relationship with the leadership of China.”](#)
- TRUMP: [“I want to thank President Xi, a very, very good friend of mine.”](#)
- TRUMP: [“It’s a tremendous step toward an unbelievable relationship.”](#)

**They touted the trade agreement and the U.S.-China relationship, while failing to press China on the epidemic.**

January 16, 2020:

- TRUMP: [“It’s going to have tremendous far-reaching effects, including our relationship, long term, with China, our farmers and manufacturers and bankers, and everybody.”](#)

January 17, 2020:

- TRUMP: “As tough as this negotiation was, I think our relationship with China now might be the best it's been in a long, long time.”
- KUDLOW: “Nothing like this ever before in history of U.S.-China’ relationship.”

**Throughout January and February, Trump defended China’s handling of the coronavirus and its transparency, even as concerns were raised by his own administration.**

January 24, 2020:

- TRUMP: “China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus. The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well. In particular, on behalf of the American People, I want to thank President Xi!”

February 7, 2020:

- TRUMP: “Now we have a deal with China. I just spoke to President Xi last night, and, you know, we’re working on the -- the problem, the virus. It’s a -- it’s a very tough situation. But I think he’s going to handle it. I think he’s handled it really well.”

February 7, 2020:

- TRUMP: “Just had a long and very good conversation by phone with President Xi of China. He is strong, sharp and powerfully focused on leading the counterattack on the Coronavirus. He feels they are doing very well, even building hospitals in a matter of only days. Nothing is easy, but he will be successful, especially as the weather starts to warm & the virus hopefully becomes weaker, and then gone. Great discipline is taking place in China, as President Xi strongly leads what will be a very successful operation. We are working closely with China to help!”

February 10, 2020:

- TRUMP: **“Well, I think China is very, you know, professionally run, in the sense that they have everything under control.”** [Trish Regan Primetime, Fox Business, 2/10/20]

February 19, 2020:

- TRUMP: “Well, I’m confident that they’re trying very hard. I know president Xi, I get along with him very well. We just made a great trade deal, which is going to be a lot of business for Arizona and every other place. But **they are trying very, very hard, and I think the numbers are going to get progressively better as we go along.**” [Fox 10 Phoenix, 2/19/20]

February 23, 2020:

- TRUMP: “No, I think President Xi is working very, very hard. I spoke to him. [He’s working very hard. I think he’s doing a very good job.](#)”

**Trump cites his ban on travelers arriving from China as proof that he took coronavirus seriously early on. But the travel ban is not the portrait of effective “very, very early” action that he claims.**

- While Trump claims his China travel ban came early, [more than three dozen](#) countries had already restricted travel from China before he acted. Each day Trump debated the travel measures roughly [14,000](#) people arrived in the U.S. from China.
- Trump didn’t declare his China travel ban until one day after the World Health Organization had already [declared](#) the coronavirus a global health emergency.
- Trump’s China travel ban included exceptions that allowed [40,000](#) people to fly into the U.S. from China even after the ban took effect.

**As the virus spread throughout China, the U.S. continued to export critical medical supplies to China that are now in short supply domestically.**

- As the coronavirus spread throughout China, the U.S. exported [millions](#) of dollars of masks and ventilators to China with the [encouragement](#) of the U.S. government.
- While U.S. exports [spiked](#), imports from China of supplies fell below normal levels as Trump downplayed the coronavirus threat back home.
- Trump waited until [mid-March](#) to invoke the Defense Production Act to speed up production, and [caused confusion](#) in the production and distribution of supplies by making it unclear whether he was actually using the full powers of the act or not.

**Trump and his administration continue to be cautious about criticizing China’s coronavirus response out of concerns for its trade negotiations.**

April 1, 2020:

- TRUMP: “We have a great trade deal. And we’d like to keep it, they’d like to keep it, and the relationship is good. [As to whether or not their numbers are accurate, I’m not an accountant from China.](#)”

April 2, 2020:

- New York Times: “National security officials and China hawks in the State Department are skeptical the détente will last, but several top advisers to Mr. Trump have advocated restraint — notably Jared Kushner, Mr. Trump’s son-in-law; Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury secretary; and Larry Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council. They argue that the two superpowers need to work together to suppress the virus and resuscitate the global economy, and that [Mr. Trump should not jeopardize a trade deal that the two nations reached last December.](#)”

April 9, 2020:

- KUDLOW: “[I don't want to pick on China right now, it's not high on my list. We have engaged with them, we have a good trade deal the president negotiated with them](#), but there are issues.”

April 14, 2020:

- KUDLOW: “Well look, a couple things. China has to be accountable in a number of areas: trade, the phase one deal, which is proceeding by the way. Certainly in fairness to the Chinese. We are moving. I'm sure it's slower than would otherwise have been the case. But reports are coming in that that deal is being implemented. China needs to be held accountable on a number of measures. Over a period of time they will be held accountable. **Having said that, the president is engaging with China. He's speaking with President Xi. Their relationship remains very positive.**”

### [Volume #7: The Catastrophic Economic Impact Of Trump's Failure To Prepare](#)

75,000 people are dead, nearly 1/3 of young children across our country are not getting enough food to eat, and over 33 million American workers are out of work -- 20% of our workforce.

Trump failed to prepare us for this pandemic and we now have the worst economy in a generation -- not as a result of coronavirus, but as a result of his failure to prepare and contain coronavirus.

It didn't have to be so bad. Other countries that were better prepared and more competently led have succeeded in controlling the pandemic -- look no further than South Korea, which is reopening with a small fraction of deaths and infection rates despite having had its first confirmed case on the same day as the United States.

No one can credibly argue this public health crisis, and the economic collapse that has ensued, was not severely worsened by Trump's wholly inadequate federal response, which was a catastrophic failure for numerous reasons, including:

1. Trump created an economy that was especially vulnerable to the coronavirus outbreak and that favored the wealthy and big corporations over working families, who have only fallen further behind and had no buffer when crisis hit.
2. Trump downplayed the crisis to protect his relationship with China over his partial trade deal that has gone largely unfilled. His failure to immediately address the testing shortage had dire consequences. As a result, more people are sick, more people have died, and there is exponentially higher disruption to our economy and lives. Not only that, but farmers who were already struggling because of Trump's reckless trade policies are hurting more than ever as most of Trump's bailout money goes to big corporate farms and his China trade deal promises haven't been met.
3. When Trump did finally take action, he put corporations first. Trump fought for coronavirus relief to go to CEOs, not hardworking families who are struggling to get by. And he's giving hundreds of billions of dollars in emergency aid to big corporations

without any requirements that they use the money to help their workers -- just like he did with his tax law.

Take a look at his record so far:

**Trump went soft on corporations and refused to use the full power of the Defense Production Act, making the crisis worse than it needed to be.**

- Trump [squandered critical time](#) instead of using the Defense Production Act to ramp up production and coordinate distribution of medical supplies after caving to [lobbying](#) from big corporations — worsening the dangerous shortage of supplies.
- Trump's [refusal to lead](#) a coordinated purchase and distribution of testing supplies and PPE has created chaos and made it more difficult for states to get supplies by forcing them to [bid against each other](#) and the federal government.

**Trump provided economic relief that overwhelmingly benefitted big corporations without providing oversight or protections to ensure the funds will help workers.**

- Trump [removed](#) the inspector general charged with overseeing the CARES Act, undermining oversight and transparency safeguards that would have ensured relief money was not being given to Trump cronies or biased toward big corporations.
- Trump's administration [botched the rollout](#) of the Paycheck Protection Program, failing to provide clear [guidance](#) on the lending process or clarity on who was eligible. As a result, weeks after applying, many small businesses still haven't been able to get their loans as [big corporations](#) and [well-connected](#) companies got loans instead, and PPP loans have not gone to the hardest hit areas.
- The Trump administration is distributing [\\$500 billion](#) in emergency aid to big corporations, without requiring them to preserve jobs or limit executive pay -- exactly like the Trump tax law, and we all know how that turned out.
- Trump's coronavirus [bailout](#) money has mostly gone to the largest farms, leaving small farms increasingly threatened with extinction.

**Trump created a fragile economy that was especially vulnerable to the downturn that resulted from the coronavirus outbreak.**

- U.S. manufacturing was already on unstable footing when the coronavirus hit. U.S. manufacturing was in a mild [recession](#) for the entirety of 2019, and now, the weakened manufacturing and transportation sectors have [slowed the supply](#) of vital products amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- Farmers were struggling because of Trump's reckless trade policies and false promises about increased purchases. Farm bankruptcies increased by nearly [20 percent](#) in 2019,

and Trump's own Department of Agriculture said that it expected farm debt in 2020 to rise to a record [\\$425 billion](#).

- The retail industry cut more than [75,000 jobs](#) last year and closed more than [9,300 stores](#), a huge spike from the previous year.

**Like his coronavirus response, Trump's economy favored big corporations as working families got left further behind -- and it's only getting worse.**

- While more than 33 million Americans are out of work because of the coronavirus outbreak, about [half](#) of Americans were already living paycheck to paycheck and [many](#) were worrying daily about being able to pay their bills, as household debt hit a record high of [\\$14 trillion](#) at the end of 2019.
- Corporations racked up [\\$19 trillion](#) in debt that made the economy more vulnerable to a downturn after spending the money they got from Trump's tax cuts on stock [buybacks](#) for themselves and their wealthy shareholders. Despite Trump's promises, corporations did next to nothing to boost workers's paychecks.

There are very real consequences to the laundry list of Trump's ill-preparedness and bad policy. More people are sick, more people have died, and there is exponentially higher disruption to our economy and lives.

We can't trust Trump to rebuild our economy because we've already seen what his failed leadership looks like - an arbitrary and politically motivated effort that does not do nearly enough to protect workers. We've suffered the consequences. We know he's not fighting for us. Americans deserve better.

### **[Volume #8: Trump Has Failed Students](#)**

80,000 Americans have died, 33 million Americans have filed for unemployment, the unemployment rate is the highest it's been since the Great Depression, and at the same time students across the country face record-high student loan debt totaling about \$1.5 trillion.

Throughout this pandemic, Trump has put himself and his political fortunes over the health and well-being of the American people. He has led a chaotic and dysfunctional response that made this crisis worse than it needed to be. The same is true for his Education Department.

Betsy DeVos has repeatedly used this crisis as an opportunity to push her disastrous agenda that undermines our nation's public school system. She has been slow to provide emergency aid to those in need and once again failed students buried under mountains of student loan debt.

Trump's failed response has not only hurt small businesses, workers and frontline heroes, but it's hurt our students and teachers as well, who were already struggling to make rent or get their next meal after schools were forced to shut down across the country.

Our country simply deserves better from this administration. When communities are already hurting, their government should be there to pick them up, not add to their pain.

**Trump's Education Department has been slow to release emergency grants to college students and blocked undocumented students from receiving assistance.**

- Trump's Education Department was slow to distribute federal coronavirus relief funds for colleges, sending out [less than one percent](#) of CARES Act money after nearly a month.
- DeVos chose to [block](#) undocumented college students from coronavirus relief aid. DeVos [defended](#) her position by saying she was “follow[ing] the law,” despite there being no explicit restrictions from Congress on which students could be eligible for grants.

**The coronavirus pandemic represents yet another instance of DeVos' inability to look out for Americans who carry high levels of student loan debt.**

- Student loan borrowers filed a [lawsuit](#) against DeVos over the Education Department's failure to stop garnishing wages for defaulted loans during the coronavirus pandemic.
- As of early April, the Education Department had [outdated](#) information on its own website that led to confusion on the suspension of student loan payments during the pandemic.

**DeVos has taken advantage of coronavirus, viewing it as an “opportunity” to push her disastrous agenda that undermines our nation's public school system.**

- DeVos said that the interruption to education during the coronavirus pandemic “[is reaffirming](#)” her long-held beliefs of alternative education models, which have included referring to public schools as “a dead end” and promoting taxpayer-funded vouchers for private education.
- DeVos claimed coronavirus was an “[opportunity](#)” for people to “look seriously at the fact that K-12 education for too long has been static and very stuck in one method of delivering and making instruction available.”
- Pressed on limited high-speed internet access, DeVos opted to [plug](#) her school choice agenda and said that distance learning can happen “in the woods behind your house.”
- DeVos allocated [\\$180 million](#) in coronavirus relief funding for her “Rethink K-12 Education Models Grant” program, which will help undermine our public school system.
- Guidance issued by Trump's Education Department on coronavirus CARES Act funds gave private schools a boost at the [expense](#) of high-poverty school districts.

## Volume #9: Trump's Corrupt Recovery Leaves Small Businesses High and Dry

The economic downturn is the sharpest since the Great Depression. Tens of thousands of small businesses have already shuttered, and the ones who are able to remain open are struggling more than ever. Small business sales expectations have plummeted to the lowest level in history.

It didn't have to be this bad. Small businesses face a grim outlook in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, but they have been pushed over the brink by two things: Trump's delayed and insufficient response to the virus, and his corrupt recovery effort that favors the wealthy and well-connected over small businesses that need the most help.

Trump's failed implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has left millions of small businesses still waiting for a desperately needed lifeline. Most small businesses can't get loans at all.

1. The Trump administration's decision to run funds for small businesses through big banks ended up preferencing larger firms with cozy relationships, leaving community banks to dole out a much smaller portion of the pie.
2. The botched rollout of the program and constant rule-shifting about the funds, including the late addition of loopholes that favor large companies, confused and frustrated small business owners who need the loans the most.
3. Those hardest hit are often minority and women-owned businesses, but Trump failed to provide them sufficient guidance or allocate funds to those underserved communities as was intended.

As a result, only 7 percent of small businesses had received funds by the end of April, and large corporations have vacuumed up more than a billion dollars in funds that were meant for small businesses.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. We cannot fully recover until our small businesses recover. Small businesses owners should be able to rely on their government in the time of need, but Trump's corrupt recovery has left them high and dry.

**Trump's lopsided distribution of PPP funds has left the majority of small businesses in the lurch.**



Thousands of applicants, zero loans: Trump's small businesses lending program is a failure to launch

- Nearly a month into the PPP program, only [7 percent](#) of small businesses had received funds.
- PPP loans weren't targeted to the [areas](#) or [industries](#) hardest hit by the coronavirus.

**Trump botched the rollout of the PPP program. It was riddled with glitches and the website crashed almost immediately, frustrating small business owners who are still waiting for this desperately needed lifeline.**



**As the Trump administration praises coronavirus relief program, lenders and small businesses criticize delays**

- [Reuters](#): “The U.S. government’s \$350 billion small-business rescue program was plagued by paperwork and technical issues.”
- The Small Business Administration’s proprietary lending portal [went down](#) minutes after it reopened for the second round of PPP loans.

**Trump changed the rules governing the implementation of the PPP, shifting the way the program was laid out in the law. These changes frustrated small businesses and could harm their businesses.**



**Government loans meant to bail out small businesses could become a financial burden themselves**

- The Trump administration imposed strict rules on the PPP program that could actually leave small business owners [worse off](#).
- [Vox](#): “Essentially, a program aimed at helping alleviate the financial burden small businesses are facing right now could ultimately add to it.”

**Trump’s uneven distribution of the funds cast aside women and minority business owners.**



**Watchdog faults SBA on minority-owned and rural small-business relief lending**

- The SBA inspector general found that Trump's implementation of the PPP [left out](#) underserved communities and could [saddle](#) small businesses with debt.
- The Trump administration [failed](#) to instruct lenders to prioritize underserved communities, as called for under law.
- Up to [90%](#) of minority and women small business owners were shut out of receiving PPP loans.
- A survey of 500 Latino small business owners showed that [only 97](#) respondents who applied for PPP loans got any funding at all in the first round.

**Meanwhile, Trump allowed large corporations to take more than a billion dollars in funds meant for small businesses.**



- Nearly 300 publicly traded companies received more than [\\$1 billion](#) meant for small business through the PPP program, including several companies that paid their executives more than \$2 million.
- 41 publicly traded companies with at least two months of operating expenses in cash-on-hand applied for [\\$104 million](#) PPP loans.
- While the Trump administration imposed [strict](#) rules on small business recipients that made the loans burdensome, it did nothing to stop big banks from favoring the wealthy.

**Trump favored providing PPP loans to well-connected businesses with ties to him and his campaign.**



- A company whose largest shareholder is Trump's [campaign manager](#) received a nearly \$800,000 PPP loan.
- A data firm for Trump's campaign got a [\\$2.85 million loan](#) -- nearly 14 times the PPP loan average.
- Fossil fuel firms linked to Trump got [\\$28 million](#) in PPP loans.

- Three companies with connections to the Trump administration received a total of [\\$18.3 million](#) under the program.
- Another company with close ties to the Trump administration received a [\\$5.5 million](#) loan.
- One Trump donor's hotel -- the biggest recipient of PPP funds -- got [\\$96.1 million](#) meant for small businesses.

### **Volume #10: Trump Risks Lives Of America's Seniors**

Trump will deliver remarks today on how he is protecting America's seniors, but his failed coronavirus response has devastated nursing homes and led to more deaths among seniors.

Trump left America's seniors in the dust long before coronavirus. Year after year, Trump proposed budgets that slashed Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security by billions, in addition to eliminating rent assistance programs and community block grant programs that help seniors obtain Meals On Wheels. The keystone of his agenda has been undoing the protections of the Affordable Care Act, a landmark law that has become even more essential in the coronavirus pandemic.

When the public health crisis hit, Trump squandered months he could have spent preparing for the virus by acquiring tests and supplies that slow the spread of the virus and protect the vulnerable in our communities.

It's no surprise Trump put nursing home safety on the back burner, making the situation worse as tens of thousands of elderly Americans have needlessly died. Over and over, Trump and his allies have downplayed the deaths of seniors as a price that must be paid to reopen our country. It's obvious why older Americans don't trust Trump on coronavirus and are reconsidering past support: Trump is needlessly risking their lives.

**Nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, which account for one-third of all coronavirus deaths in the country, have been devastated by Trump's disastrous coronavirus response.**

[New York Times](#): "One-Third of All U.S. Coronavirus Deaths Are Nursing Home Residents or Workers"

[Politico](#): "The unfolding tragedy in American nursing homes, where patients are dying in clusters, is another consequence of the coronavirus testing debacle. While America wasn't looking, family visitors, staff and other health professionals

unknowingly brought the virus into long-term care facilities, spreading it among the population least likely to withstand it.”

**Trump failed to provide nursing homes with enough testing capacity early on and failed to help states provide universal testing at facilities.**

[Associated Press](#): “After two months and more than 10,000 deaths that have made the nation’s nursing homes some of the most terrifying places to be during the coronavirus crisis, most of them still don’t have access to enough tests to help control outbreaks among their frail, elderly residents.”

[NBC News](#): “The Trump administration is calling for nursing homes to test all residents and staff over the next two weeks as it prepares to ‘reopen’ the country, but advocates and industry executives say that in many states, universal testing isn’t feasible and that the federal government isn’t providing the money or means to do it.”

**As coronavirus ripped through nursing homes, Trump continued plans to weaken infection control rules at those very facilities.**

[USA Today](#): “The federal government is considering rolling back infection control requirements in U.S. nursing homes – even as the long-term-care industry's residents and workers are overwhelmed by the coronavirus.”

**The Trump administration dragged its feet in tracking coronavirus cases at nursing homes and was still unclear on how many facilities have outbreaks.**

[NBC News](#): “The government still doesn't know how many nursing homes have coronavirus outbreaks”

[Wall Street Journal](#): “A recently launched federal effort to collect data on the impact of the coronavirus in nursing homes will leave the full toll unclear, because a new rule doesn’t require facilities to report deaths and infections that occurred before early May.”

**Ahead of Trump’s trip to Florida tomorrow, Florida seniors in particular are fed up with Trump’s failed coronavirus response.**

[Florida senior](#): “I’ve seen a lot. I was in the Vietnam War. I had my own business. It was just panic, but we had, in a sense, we had leadership in that event. And, in fact, in a lot of events. Presidents have in the past given leadership or comfort. But there is nothing coming from our current president.”

[Florida senior](#): “January and February were totally wasted by Trump. Totally wasted. To Trump, in my opinion, the virus is nothing more than an

inconvenience to him and his political ambitions. And he doesn't really care. I don't believe he cares about the people. I don't think he cares about who is affected by the virus. I think it's really for him an inconvenience."

**Trump is rapidly losing support from seniors because of his failed coronavirus response -- even his own campaign polling says so.**

[Washington Post](#): "One of the most durable political assets that Republicans have enjoyed throughout the 21st century is their edge among Americans 65 and older, who tend to turn out at the polls more reliably than any other group. But with President Trump's inept and erratic handling of the novel coronavirus pandemic, he is rapidly losing support among the age group most vulnerable to its ravages — which is a big warning sign to Republicans as they look to the fall. ... The shift has been showing up in a string of recent polls, reportedly including those that have been conducted by Trump's own campaign."