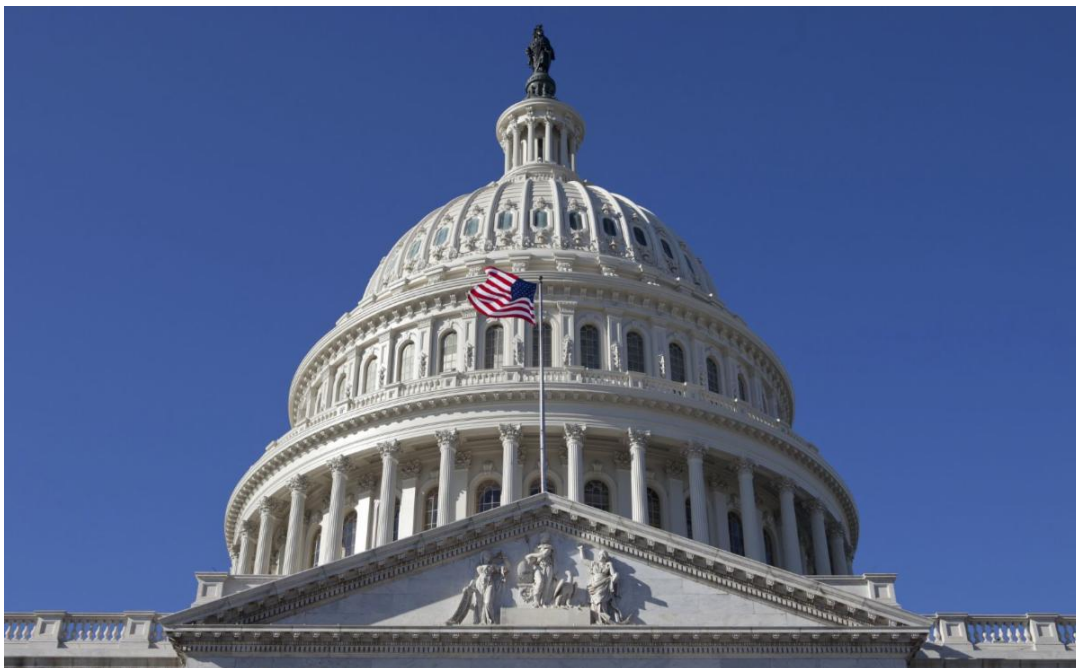




Dear Friend,

It was great to be back home in California's 39th District this week meeting with constituents. Before next week, I wanted to share a few quick updates on my work for you in Congress. Take a look:

## **Fighting to Bring Targeted COVID-19 Relief Directly to CA-39 Communities**



I am committed to providing targeted COVID-19 relief that can directly go to the cities I represent across Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties in CA-39.

Our cities' ability to receive aid shouldn't be in Sacramento's hands. This week, I wrote an op-ed for the Orange County Register explaining why I support direct aid to local governments, businesses and families who continue to struggle during COVID-19.

I'm working in Congress to support our community during COVID-19, expand access to vaccines, tests, PPE, mental health resources and more. The only way we will get through this pandemic is by working together. Read my full thoughts for the Orange County Register [HERE](#).

## **Demanding Answers for Californians on Vaccine Distribution Failures**

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California  
1303 18th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

We write to express our serious concerns regarding the State of California's slow, opaque decision-making process, and ever-changing approach to distributing COVID-19 vaccines, which has been met with confusion and frustration by our constituents, local public health officials, and front-line health care providers. With the remarkable success of the federal government's Operation Warp Speed in producing safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics to aid in the fight against the coronavirus, the State's vaccine distribution plan must be coherent, efficient, and transparent, otherwise we fear more Californians may die as the result of COVID.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of February 11<sup>th</sup>, the State of California has received a total of 7,822 million vaccines, yet only 2,134 million of those vaccines have been administered. This means that roughly 72 percent of the total vaccines distributed to the Golden State remain to be administered and placed California behind Florida, New York, and Washington State in vaccines administered on a per capita basis. The State of California should explain to Californians why the vaccine distribution has had such failures, despite having months to prepare prior to the development of the vaccines.

During a January 8, 2021 news conference, you urged Californians to hold you accountable in your goal to administer one million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in ten days. Nearly two weeks later, it was reported that the California Department of Public Health acknowledged technical issues and data lags had prevented the State from accurately confirming if this goal was achieved. With California being a beacon of technological innovation, this is particularly disconcerting.

On January 27, 2021, you abruptly announced that Blue Shield of California and Kaiser Permanente would assume management of overseeing vaccine distribution to counties, pharmacies, and health care providers in the State. While a concise connection to the State's failed vaccine distribution system was needed, this announcement and its lack of details has caused further confusion. During an already difficult and uncertain time, our constituents and Californians deserve consistency and transparency with vaccine distribution.

While the State recently published vaccine allocation per county on its website, it is our understanding your Administration has not publicly disclosed its formulas that determine county vaccine allocations, which has made it incredibly difficult for local officials to develop and implement vaccination plans. Further, your Administration retains sole authority over approving additional providers eligible to administer COVID-19 vaccines and, as we understand it, this process

has taken at times weeks to secure approval—only further hampering efforts to increase vaccinations across California to save lives and help restore life to normal.

It is also troubling that, according to the Los Angeles Times, software programs your Administration is using for vaccine distribution—apparently the only way for health care providers to participate in your vaccine rollout initiative—has been “blown by technical problems” and glitches on the CA’s website are “at times limiting access to much needed vaccines.” Even more frustrating is that the California Department of Public Health appears to be aware of this issue, stating the Department “has been working with the vendor to work on finding solutions,” but it is unclear if these problems have been resolved.

Accordingly, we request responses to the following questions:

- 1) How is your Administration determining vaccine allocation to counties, health care providers, and pharmacies?
- 2) The Federal government is providing 3-week advance vaccine allocation estimates to states and other jurisdictions. Why is a similar policy not in place in California to help counties and front-line health care providers with appropriate vaccine distribution planning?
- 3) How many unused doses of vaccine remains in the State of California's control to be distributed?
- 4) Does your Administration intend to include on its public dashboard the percentage of vaccines administered relative to total vaccine distributed to counties and health systems?

It is our hope that your Administration take immediate steps to inform local public health officials and health care providers how vaccines are being distributed around the State to assist them with planning and resolve any and all software problems so Californians can get access to vaccines in their communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
YOUNG KIM  
Member of Congress

  
DAVID G. VALLEJO  
Member of Congress

  
KEVIN MCCARTHY  
House Republican Leader

  
DARRELL ISSA  
Member of Congress

  
MICHELLE STEEL  
Member of Congress

  
ISHUK LAMLELA  
Member of Congress

  
JAVIER BERNOLTE  
Member of Congress

  
TAMI MCCENTYCK  
Member of Congress

  
KEVIN CALVERT  
Member of Congress

  
MIKE GARCIA  
Member of Congress

  
DEVIN NUNES  
Member of Congress

  
KEVIN CALVERT  
Member of Congress

A large number of California's COVID-19 vaccines remain unused or unaccounted for. The lack of a consistent strategy for vaccine distribution is hurting public health and safety for our communities and has led to one of the slowest COVID-19 vaccine rollouts per capita in the nation.

I led a letter with House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (CA-23) and the California GOP delegation to demand accountability and answers. Learn more [HERE](#).

## Reforming the WHO, Standing Up to China, Fighting COVID-19



Taiwan is a strong ally of the United States and has a decades-long record of leading in global health security. Taiwan had observer status in the World Health Organization (WHO) from 2009 until 2017, until its status was revoked due to pressure from the People's Republic of China.

I introduced a bipartisan bill this week with Rep. Brad Sherman (CA-30) and over 30 other bipartisan Members of Congress to help Taiwan regain its observer status. This will allow Taiwan to receive and share up-to-date information on COVID-19 with other countries in the WHO. Learn more [HERE](#).

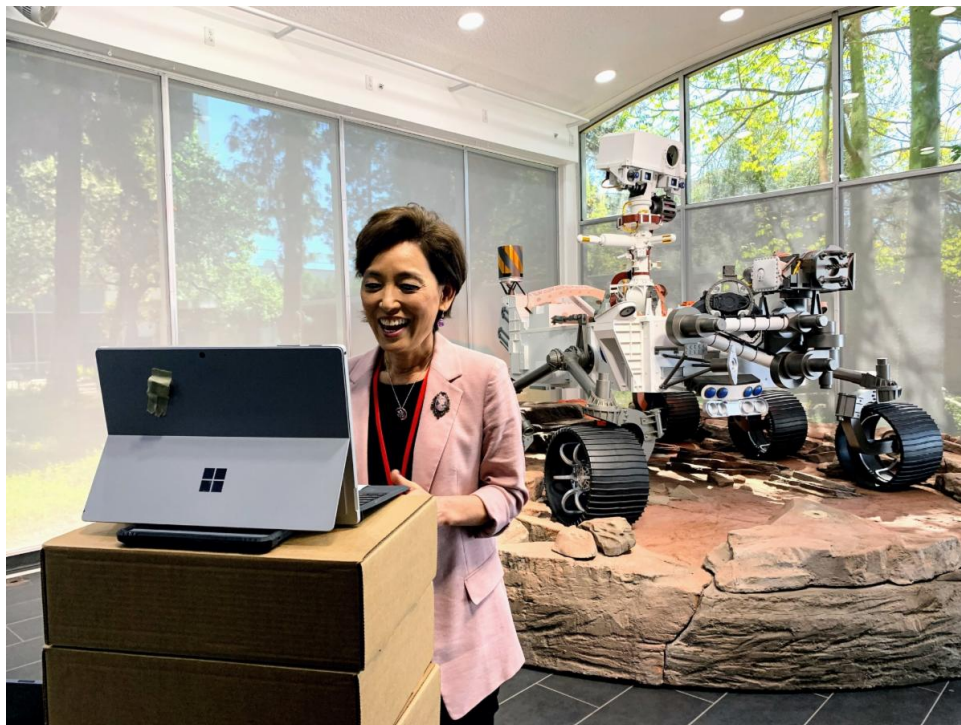
## Grand Opening of the new Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce Building





As a member of the House Small Business Committee and a former small business owner, I know the struggles small business owners face and the value they create. I was honored to participate in the opening for the new home of the Yorba Linda Chamber of Commerce at the historic Trueblood Home, and I look forward to working with the Yorba Linda Chamber to help local businesses succeed.

### **Countdown to Mars with Rowland Unified School District**



Today's students are tomorrow's creative problem solvers that will lead our nation to new heights and unlock the mysteries of outer space. While at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Research Laboratory, I caught up with students at Giano Intermediate School and Alvarado Intermediate School to watch NASA's Perseverance Rover land on the surface of Mars and talk about the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. I'm proud to support research and innovation on the House Science, Space and Technology Committee in Congress. You can watch the rover land [HERE](#).

### **Calling for Hearings on Following the Science to Safely Reopen**

# Schools



I joined a letter with my fellow Republican colleagues on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee urging Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30) to hold hearings during next week's House session on following the science to safely reopen schools for in-person learning.

Parents, teachers, students, and local school officials deserve to know more about the factual, scientific information on how schools can safely be open during the COVID-19 pandemic, and also to consider recent research on the mental and emotional impact prolonged virtual learning has on children. Learn more [HERE](#).

## COVID-19

I am committed to helping California's 39th District get through the COVID-19 pandemic better than before. As we work to safely reopen communities and get people back to work, I will do all that I can to make sure my constituents receive the relief you deserve.

Vaccines are currently available for CA-39 residents ages 65+.

- Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment in Orange County.
- Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment in Los Angeles County.
- Click [HERE](#) to make an appointment in San Bernardino County.
- Click [HERE](#) to learn more about our state's vaccination plan.

Find a full list of COVID-19 resources [HERE](#).

## Casework

Need help with a federal agency, like Small Business or the VA? My team and I are here to help. Submit a casework request [HERE](#) and find our privacy release form for casework [HERE](#).

My team and I are here to serve you. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or concerns. I encourage you to follow me on social media on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at [@RepYoungKim](#).

Sincerely,

Young Kim

