



Dear Friend,

I hope you've had a great week! Before the weekend, I want to make sure you saw a few quick updates on my work for you in Congress. Take a look:

Helping Small Manufacturers in Our Community



The COVID-19 pandemic has left many small businesses struggling through no fault of their own. That's why this week I introduced two bipartisan bills to improve the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504 Loan Program. These loans will help small manufacturers, that produce everything from the clothing we wear to the technology powering our lives, keep their doors open and employees on their payroll. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Asking for Answers from FEMA on Behalf of Orange County



March 2, 2021

The Honorable Robert J. Fenton, Jr.
Senior Official Performing the Duties of Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Acting Administrator Fenton:

We are writing today about a recent development concerning Orange County, California and its efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccines to their qualified residents. We are encouraged that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has allowed Orange County to participate in their vaccination initiative. Providing vaccines to the more than 3 million commitments that live in Orange County is paramount as we have sadly lost almost 4,000 residents due to COVID-19. The county is working hard to help everyone, including its highly vulnerable populations and that work should be commended.

Orange County authorities have been working for almost a year to fight back against the pandemic and have been forced to make tough decisions as the costs mount. It has come to our attention that FEMA has been putting burdensome regulations and, in some cases, provided conflicting guidance related to the requirements for collection of vaccination recipients' health insurance coverage information.

Orange County has received three different directives from FEMA including:

- i) No duty to collect or attempt to collect health insurance information
- ii) Only a good faith effort to collect or attempt to collect health insurance information is required
- iii) Vaccination recipients' health insurance information must be collected both prospectively and retrospectively

The most recent guidance from FEMA now requires Orange County to not only collect private insurance information but also mandates the county file claims against the insurance policy and subsequently credit FEMA based on the "value of payments under the guise of programmatic prohibition of duplication of benefits."

The county has concerns with this mandate for multiple reasons:

- i) It is neither cost-effective nor practical. The level of effort to collect health insurance information and substantiate a claim is potentially greater than the amount to be recovered from insurance companies. In order to implement this, the county will have to retroactively attempt to obtain health insurance information and establish a contract with a third party to bill the insurance companies. The cost of such a contract will be charged to FEMA.
- ii) It is inconsistent with federal messaging that vaccinations would be provided for "free." Making a claim against health insurance carriers is inconsistent with the spirit of this messaging and further exposes policy holders to potential premium rate increases based on actuarial claims analysis.

iii) The determination of duplication of benefits is legally incorrect. In order to be "duplication" the program participant - in this case Orange County - must receive the remunerative value more than once. In this case, Orange County receives the FEMA PA benefit (reimbursement of vaccination costs) and the private citizen doesn't actually receive any benefits from the insurance provider. Duplication fails because there are two separate parties and no actual receipt of benefits by the second party.

iv) Precedent: In similar situations FEMA has had different requirements and ultimately rarely enforced "duplication" requirements. For example:

(1) Private Property Debris Removal: FEMA has often provided guidance that collection of property insurance information is required for program participants but does not require sub-grantees to make claims.

(2) Sheltering & Temporary Essential Power (STEP): In the approximately eight to 10 instances the STEP program has been implemented, at no time has FEMA required even the attempt to collect private homeowner property insurance policy information or the pursuit of claims against private insurance for duplication.

Orange County is already facing tight budgets and stretched resources. We must ensure they have the resources to protect our citizens during this pandemic. We cannot allow overly burdensome regulations to add cost or reduce care to our constituents.

We ask that you give full and fair consideration to removing this obstacle of gathering insurance information and billing insurance companies so that the county can more effectively and safely deliver vaccinations to the people of Orange County.

Sincerely,


Michelle Steel
Member of Congress


Young Kim
Member of Congress

Orange County has been working tirelessly in the fight against COVID-19. While FEMA's help in vaccination efforts is much appreciated, the agency has added some conflicting, costly and burdensome requirements to receiving a vaccine. We must ensure that we can safely and effectively deliver COVID-19 vaccines across our communities. That's why, after hearing concerns from county officials, fellow Orange County Rep. Michelle Steel (CA-48) and I wrote to FEMA this week asking for answers. I'm committed to helping CA-39 stay and healthy and safe as we work to reopen. Learn more [HERE](#).

Celebrating Women's History Month



Today is Employee Appreciation Day, and as we continue to celebrate Women's History Month, I figure there's no better time to give a well-deserved shoutout to Linette, Abi, Carolina and Cynthia in my Placentia office who are working around the clock to serve CA-39. I also want to thank Callie, Kristine and Mechelle in my D.C. office.

Throughout Women's History Month, we recognize the countless heroic women who have broken barriers and are making their communities, our country and our world a better place. I'm proud to represent so many amazing women who are making a difference throughout our community.

Follow along on my social media @RepYoungKim as we highlight a few of the amazing women across the nation who are blazing trails for future generations.

Congressional Art Competition



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
Young Kim
CALIFORNIA'S 39TH DISTRICT

(714) 984-2440

WINNING ARTWORK WILL BE DISPLAYED FOR ONE YEAR IN THE U.S. CAPITOL.

YOUNGKIM.HOUSE.GOV/SERVICES/ART-COMPETITION

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

ALL CA-39 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WELCOME TO APPLY

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram icons

@REPYOUNGKIM

Illustration of a pen and a pink rose.

Calling all CA-39 young artists! All high school students are invited to participate in the 2021 Congressional Art Competition for a chance to have their work displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year. Visit my website [HERE to learn more.](https://youngkim.house.gov/services/art-competition)

Exchange Between Korean National Assembly and Bipartisan Congressional Members



I spoke with the South Korean Parliament and bipartisan members of the House of Representatives. I was joined by my colleague Rep. Gerry Connolly (VA-11).

I discussed how the United States and South Korea need to strengthen our alliance together to confront the challenges posed by North Korea and the People's Republic of China. I was encouraged by South Korea's agreement to pursue an equitable agreement and path forward to provide for our collective security and look forward to finding ways to work together to promote shared priorities.

Strengthening Democracy in Africa



This week, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Global Human Rights held a hearing on elections in Africa.

We know from our years of involvement in the region that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has staked out considerable interests in the region to expand its influence around the world. I asked how the U.S. can reduce the CCP's influence and ensure that our economic and diplomatic tools are used effectively in the region. You can watch my questioning during this week's House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee hearing [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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "YK", is placed below the text "Sincerely,".

Young Kim

