

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 23, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Secretary Xavier Becerra
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear President Biden and Secretary Becerra,

Thank you for the Administration's efforts in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic thus far. Your leadership has resulted in 74.9% of adults over 25 being protected against the coronavirus with at least one dose of a vaccine.¹ Unfortunately, cases in Florida are still on the rise, with 45,604 new cases reported for the week ending in July 15.² Therefore, I urge the full and fair consideration of the administration boost its support of COVID-19 prevention efforts in Florida, combat increasing misinformation about COVID-19 and vaccines, and detail how they may be able to increase the frequency of their case totals.

Florida now accounts for 1 in 5 new U.S. COVID cases. As cases continue rising, misinformation efforts that fuel vaccine hesitancy are causing preventable deaths. Further, the state's rise in Delta variant cases is of increasing concern as it makes up 83% of new US coronavirus cases³ and is more contagious than the other virus strains.

These problems are compounded by the fact that Florida's local government officials' decision to reduce their reporting rate from daily to weekly. Having the most up to date information on the coronavirus is the first step to combatting it. Therefore, we urge your fair and full consideration to explore all avenues to help Florida combat this increase in positive cases. We appreciate your continued assistance to prevent COVID-19 cases and wish to be helpful in this endeavor. Given the increasingly alarming situation in Florida, we ask your full and fair consideration of the matter and ask for your continued assistance to prevent COVID-19 cases from rising further.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine-tracker>

² https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailytrendscases

³ <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/20/health/us-coronavirus-tuesday/index.html>



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress



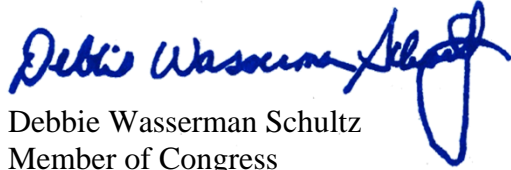
Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



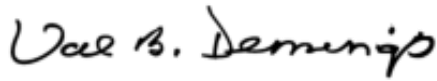
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Val Demings
Member of Congress