

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

governments more than \$1 trillion while providing most Americans with a new round of \$1,200 checks.

May. 16, 2020



The U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$3 trillion Democratic economic stimulus bill Friday that **Republicans** and President Donald Trump have already rejected and isn't likely to trigger bipartisan negotiations any time soon.

The measure, passed 208-199, would give cash-strapped states and local

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

Pelosi this week has repeatedly invoked Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, who has said [Congress](#) will have to inject more fiscal stimulus into the economy to prevent a prolonged recession. The U.S. has more than 1.4 million coronavirus cases, and more than 86,000 have died.

But Republicans also cite the Fed chief, with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell saying Powell hasn't explicitly said how quickly Congress must act. He and other Republicans have dismissed the House Democrats' bill as a liberal wish list and are using it to attack [Democrats](#), whom polls give an increasing chance of holding the House and taking the Senate in November's election.

"This is much more about political messaging than effective legislating," Republican Representative Tom Cole of Oklahoma said.

GOP members said some provisions don't belong in a virus bill, such as reductions in immigration enforcement, providing stimulus checks to undocumented immigrants, money for the troubled U.S. Postal Service and a national requirement to hold elections by mail.

Trump and Republican congressional leaders have acknowledged, however, that some sort of further economic stimulus will likely be necessary as the economy

continues to shed jobs. The number of people filing for unemployment benefits since

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said he anticipates another bill eventually.

## Senate to Evaluate

“I would not wait for December,” McCarthy told reporters. “But I would not pass a bill without having any hearings, from the standpoint, without any feedback.”

The Senate plans to ignore the House proposal next week, focusing instead on confirming Trump administration nominees. Aides say that in June, the chamber may consider legislation to give businesses protection from virus-related lawsuits, and that bill could be combined with some limited economic aid.

McConnell said Thursday it will take time to evaluate the nearly \$3 trillion in spending already enacted by Congress to combat the virus and its economic effects.

“The chairman of the Fed is correct and we do anticipate having to act again at some point,” McConnell said in an interview on [Fox News](#). “I do think though in terms of timing, the chairman of the Fed didn’t say how quickly, and we need to verify how we have done so far and make sure whatever mistakes we have made we don’t want to repeat.”

## Democratic Qualms

A group of the most vulnerable Democrats in swing districts voted against the bill, arguing that they preferred a bipartisan approach to the virus.

“I could not in good conscience vote to accept this Washington gamesmanship, or vote to approve unrelated wastes of taxpayer dollars, while Iowa sees its Covid-19 case rates climbing and parts of my district become a national hot spot,” said Iowa freshman Democrat Cindy Axne.

Oklahoma's Kendra Horn said in an interview that in addition to opposing the

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

aid, fixing small business loans and defeating the virus.

## **SALT Deduction**

Other Democrats, though, backed Pelosi's decision to expand the plan's reach to include priorities such as eliminating the tax code's cap on state and local deductions for individuals, as well as expanded employee-retention tax credits.

But the speaker decided against several costly items sought by progressives including recurring stimulus payments to Americans linked to future unemployment. She said Congress could vote on more rounds of aid later if necessary.

Congressional Progressive Caucus co-chairwoman Pramila Jayapal opposed the bill, citing its lack of funds to guarantee paychecks. She had proposed direct federal payments to employers to rehire furloughed workers.

"At the core, our response from Congress must match the true scale of this devastating crisis. The Heroes Act — while it contains many important provisions — simply fails to do that," Jayapal said in a statement.

=====

©2020 Bloomberg News

Visit Bloomberg News at [www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)

Distributed by [Tribune Content Agency, LLC](#).

Benefits • Income Tax • IRS • Small Business

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us