

United States Senate

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

I write to you today regarding the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and to encourage the Treasury Department to take swift action to eliminate financial barriers to testing for this disease. As insurance commissioners, plans, and Congress work to ensure patients are able to receive testing without cost-sharing, I want to make sure that Montanans enrolled in a high deductible health plan (HDHP) with a qualifying health savings account (HSA) are not left behind. As such, I respectfully request that the Treasury Department issue guidance deeming COVID-19 testing a preventive care benefit permitted to be provided by an HSA-eligible HDHP without a deductible.

As you know, HDHPs and HSAs help provide Montanans with traditional medical coverage and are a tax-advantaged way to help save for future medical expenses. Issuing guidance determining that COVID-19 testing be considered "preventive care" under section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) would go a long way towards ensuring that Montanans and Americans across the country receive testing for COVID-19. With the increase in popularity of HDHPs and HSAs, guidance from your Department would provide patients with peace of mind and allow individuals and families to prioritize their health and well-being during this outbreak.

I strongly believe swift action is necessary to help stem the spread of this virus and remove financial barriers so Montanans and Americans across the country can receive the care they need without experiencing sky-high out-of-pocket costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
U.S. Senator