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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2606

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write to urge you to take steps to strengthen and secure the medical and pharmaceutical supply chain in the U.S. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear how relying upon China for medicine or essential medical equipment is detrimental to our national security and endangers public health. For example, over a third of U.S. imports of antibiotics and more than seventy percent of imports of personal protective equipment are sourced from China. This provides the authoritarian and communist Chinese government with unacceptable influence within our medical supply chains. Additionally, China's obfuscation and efforts to hide the extent of the outbreak has led to the deaths of over a hundred thousand individuals and exacerbated the pandemic.

As you know, the U.S. is facing unprecedented challenges to public health and the economy due to COVID-19. I thank you for recently signing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law as it included several important provisions to help support and expand the existing medical supply chain as well as identify gaps and ways to improve upon existing infrastructure. It is critically important to ensure that legislation is fully implemented as quickly as possible and that the U.S. continues to be the world leader in biomedicine, pharmaceutical development, and medical innovation. Ceding this position of global leadership to China or other countries around the world would be detrimental to our national security, impair our ability to combat the current or future public health crises, and have a negative impact on our economy and jobs.

I appreciate the decisive actions your administration has taken thus far in response to this pandemic by restricting travel from China and elsewhere, providing our states and hospitals with essential resources, and developing and implementing a whole of government approach to address this pandemic. Moving forward, it is important that we incentivize innovation and the development of essential medical supplies and equipment in the U.S. in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Congress considers additional measures to address the pandemic, I urge you to utilize your executive powers and existing authorities to take appropriate actions to strengthen the medical and pharmaceutical supply chain in the U.S.

I am thankful for your ongoing efforts to defeat this virus and look forward to continuing to work with you to mitigate its impact on Montana and the country as a whole.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator