

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

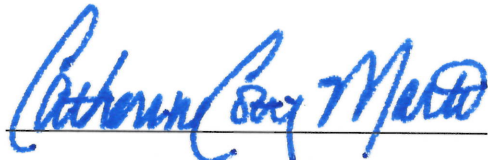
As the incidence rate of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) climbs across the country, we respectfully request that you work to quickly enhance the capacity of Nevada's state-based health agencies to test patients for the virus.

As of today, Nevada has two presumptive-positive cases of coronavirus in both the northern and southern parts of the state. Nevada's public health agencies are currently in the process of examining the extent of contact that these patients had with others in the state before they became symptomatic. In order to ensure that our public health agencies can respond quickly and appropriately to this evolving situation, we respectfully request the assistance of the Department of Health and Human Services in securing additional COVID-19 test kits for the State of Nevada as soon as possible.

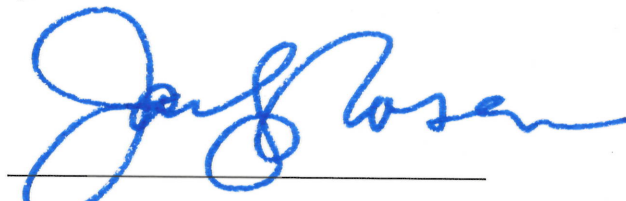
Our partners in the state are doing all they can to contain the spread of the virus and help other entities, including health care providers and school systems, to prepare for and respond to new cases. As a state dominated by tourism, it is especially critical that Nevada has the tools it needs to address this issue. Additional testing capacity is essential to their efforts, and imperative to limiting the spread of coronavirus in Nevada. To this end, please let our offices know within 24 hours how many tests the state will receive and when they can expect them.

We appreciate your immediate attention to this request, and your agency's partnership in our efforts to keep Nevadans safe and healthy amidst this public health crisis.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

CC: Governor Steve Sisolak of Nevada