



The Urgent Has, Out of Necessity, Replaced the Important on Capitol Hill

Since mid-March 2020, it has been something other than business as usual for folks on Capitol Hill. With rare exception, Federal office buildings have been closed to the public and Legislators and their staff have mostly conducted business from their homes.

Throughout May 2020, Washington, D.C. has strictly adhered to a stay-in-place mindset where only essential workers have been permitted on the streets of Washington, D.C. That isn't to say the Congress hasn't been busy. Federal legislation regarding stimulus packages and committee meetings around appropriations and crisis related issues have taken place.

On May 15, 2020, the House passed, on a bipartisan 208-199 vote, The Heroes Act, a bold and comprehensive coronavirus response bill that will meet the challenge this pandemic poses to our nation.

The more than \$3 trillion legislation protects the lives and livelihoods of the American people by investing in testing, tracing, and treatment, providing strong support for our heroes on the frontlines with robust funding for state and local governments and hazard pay, and putting more money directly in the pockets of workers and families.

Reportedly, "The Heroes Act is the bold step we need to ensure our nation meets the challenge of the pandemic and the ensuing economic recession," said House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey (D-NY). "Critically, this legislation delivers robust funding to keep our frontline heroes paid and working for the American people, to execute a nationwide testing and contact tracing strategy, and to alleviate the economic pain of lockdowns and stay-at-home orders. With the Heroes Act, we can meet the urgent needs of the American people and help our country through the coronavirus crisis."

As a matter of record, The Heroes Act is Congress's fifth piece of legislation to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. The legislation follows the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act enacted on April 24; the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, enacted on March 27; the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, enacted on March 18; and the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act enacted on March 6.

Impact of COVID-19 on CORE member agencies -

From the reports I've received from CORE member agencies, contagion related to COVID-19 not been problematic for any of our members. Toward the beginning of March, facilities limited access to their campuses for anyone other than residents or staff. Controlling the whereabouts of residents and their access to the broader community worked to limit contagion.

From spring break through the end of the school year, in home curriculum was provided students to complete assignments. Regular classes were not resumed. Some children who went home for spring break have made their way back to the campus where they took up residency. Of course, the first step was a two-week placement in a quarantine cottage until they could safely be integrated back into care with other residents.

I am pleased to report, that plans for managing the threats associated to COVID-19 has worked well for our membership.

Update on 2020 CORE National Conference

In the Executive Director's Report for April 2020, information was shared regarding the approaching deadline for submission of proposals for presenters wanting to present at the 2020 CORE National Conference.

I am pleased to report that our membership has stepped up to the plate and by the time of May's deadline, we had ample proposals from which to choose. Information regarding the conference, along with conference registration and hotel registration will be made in July.

Catherine Hershey Award Nominations for 2020

With its inception in 2005, the Catherine Hershey Awards are national awards specifically for the residential education field. Administered by CORE, the Coalition for Residential Excellence, the awards are sponsored by the Milton Hershey School. Judges are individuals from the residential field who rank all submitted nominations with personal and program information removed. The awards honor outstanding staff, students, and supporters whose tireless dedication and steadfast contributions exemplify the essence of Residential Excellence: affording youth from all back-

grounds the opportunities to help them navigate a solid course in education, career, relationships...and in life.

A template for making nominations has been sent to each member agency. In addition, it will also be available on the CORE website. Nominations must be submitted to Milton Hershey School prior to July 15, 2020. The nomination forms must be mailed to Jacqueline Scacco at Milton Hershey School (scaccoj@mhs-pa.org)

Please make your nominations for the following:

- **Catherine Hershey Award Student of the Year**
- **Catherine Hershey Award Houseparent/Houseparents of the Year**
- **Catherine Hershey Award Administrator of the Year**
- **Catherine Hershey Award Educator of the Year**
- **Catherine Hershey Award Alumnus of the Year**
- **CORE Member Trustee Member of the Year**
- **CORE Policymaker of the Year**