



# UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

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## **Press Statement – For Immediate Release**

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## **Universal Health Care Foundation urges Senate to pass bold COVID-19 relief plan**

Frances G. Padilla, president of Universal Health Care Foundation, urged U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal and Christopher Murphy to pass legislation matching the scope of the House of Representatives' HEROES Act to address health and basic needs in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

In her letter, which can be found in full on the foundation's website, Padilla outlined several policy proposals in detail. Some highlights include:

- Protecting people from crushing medical costs and offering them a range of supports to get the care they need, including the affordability of tests, treatments and vaccines for everybody.
- Addressing the needs of people of color and of immigrant families, regardless of status, as the pandemic has laid bare the stark inequities that persist in our state.
- Enhancing relief for health care providers and frontline workers, including hazard pay, sufficient PPE, and safety standards for all essential workers. Creating more dedicated support for community health centers and mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Investing in our democracy by ensuring that everyone can vote safely this November.

“While we understand the uphill battle faced in the Senate, we believe it is crucial for the federal government to provide the support that Connecticut residents so desperately need to survive the current emergency and lay the groundwork for economic recovery,” Padilla said.

The Senate will reconvene next week.

*Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut's mission is to serve as a catalyst that engages residents and communities in shaping a democratic health system that provides universal access to quality, affordable health care and promotes health in Connecticut. We believe that health care is a fundamental right and that our work is part of a broader movement for social and economic justice.*