

"Good Morning Ted! I thought you may be a good person to answer this question since your tendencies are towards a liberal democratic view point. I am merely wanting to know what you have heard from a bipartisan source as to why it took so long for the stimulus bill to pass? I have heard a lot that it was because the democrats wanted other issues included that were not relevant to the stimulus bill. Can you verify any sources? I'm very disappointed to say the least in our mass media. They neglect to tell us anything regarding the holdup. I know you can help with some valid information. Thanks Ted, Vickie"

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Good Tuesday morning, Vickie.

Contemplating your question, I have to start by saying it's practically miraculous that Congress passed this gargantuan bill as quickly as it did.

Checking a bit, I found a *New York Times* timeline at <https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-timeline.html> that includes two relevant dates given your question:

—February 24: "The Trump administration asks Congress for \$1.25 billion for coronavirus response"; and

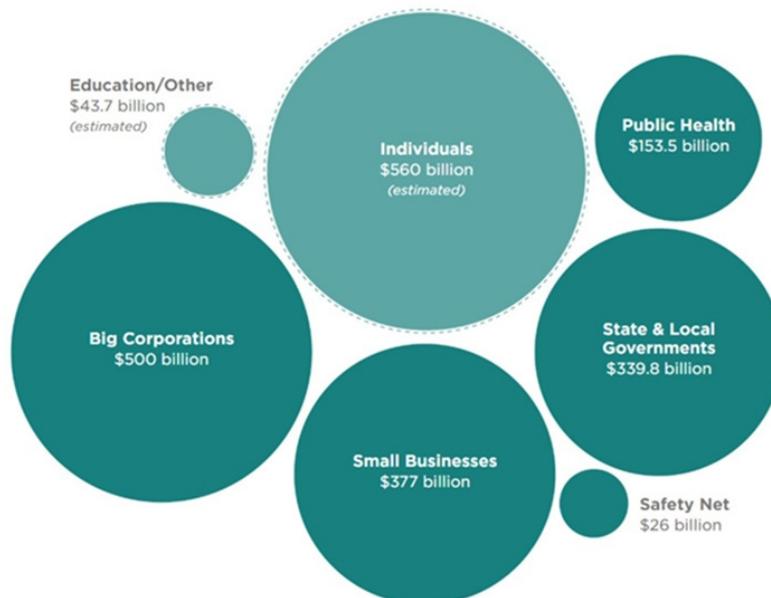
—March 13: "President Trump declares a national emergency."

The interval between February 24, when the money request for \$1.25 billion was advanced, and March 27, when the \$2 trillion+ bill was signed into law, was just 32 days.

Don't know if you're aware, but the bill, the document itself, is 879 pages long! If you're interested you can read it here: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6819239-FINAL-FINAL-CARES-ACT.html>

And you're wondering: "...why it took so long for the stimulus bill to pass?"?

Where did the money go? See the chart below from NPR: <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/26/821457551/whats-inside-the-senate-s-2-trillion-coronavirus-aid-package>



Most—\$877 billion—is going to "Big Corporations" and "Small Businesses." I don't think they are conservative or liberal. They are capitalistic and primarily interested in generating profit. Nice and simple.

Second most—\$560 billion—is going individuals with incomes below a certain threshold who will receive \$1,200 each.

Shamefully, "Public Health is getting just \$153.5 billion. (!!!!)

More about where the money is going is here:

<https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2020-03-25/highlights-of-congress-economic-relief-plan>

The worst expenditure in the bill in my opinion is: "\$150 million for federal grants to state and local arts and humanities programs; \$75 million for Corporation for Public Broadcasting; \$25 million for Washington, D.C., Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts." What do these have to do with COVID-19-related care, cure, and prevention?

Not sure what you mean by, "...other issues included that were not relevant to the stimulus bill." Probably, in addition to arts funding, non-virus or economic stuff in the bill is present because congresspeople tend to be oriented toward "bringing home the bacon" to their states.

Don't know if I answered your question, but I tried.

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