

United States Senate

February 16, 2021

Jeffrey Zients
Chair
White House COVID-19 Response Team
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC

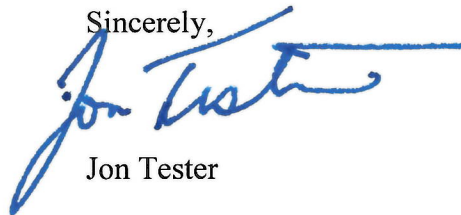
Dear Mr. Zients:

While I am encouraged to see the concerted efforts from the White House COVID-19 Response Team on increasing the national supply of COVID vaccines and the success in increasing weekly shipments of vaccine, I write with concerns about calculating states' allocations of weekly vaccine allotments. Montana is receiving one of the lowest per capita allocations of COVID-19 vaccine doses in the country. I am concerned that Montana is not receiving its fair share despite the state's strong record of efficiently distributing shots. I urge you to swiftly provide additional vaccines to Montana to ensure public health officials can get folks vaccinated.

For the last year, Montana's public health workforce has been working day in and day out to get our arms around this crisis. They have not fallen short when it comes to vaccine distribution. Since receiving the first shipments in December, Montana has been one of the highest performing states as far as doses administered per 100,000 population. In fact, I am consistently told that if the state received more vaccines, there would be capacity to administer it successfully.

Montana's vaccine shipments have increased incrementally over the last three weeks. Even still, I am worried that these small steps are not cutting it. I would respectfully request that you provide an explanation on how vaccine allocation calculations are determined as soon as possible. Montanans – especially our hardworking public health officers – need answers.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester

CC: CDC Director Rochelle Walensky