

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Jeffrey Zients  
Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,  
Washington, DC 20500

January 29, 2021

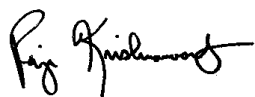
Dear Mr. Zients,

Thank you for all that you are doing to protect and strengthen American public health. As the Biden Administration embarks on its second week since the inauguration, we write to you with concerns about a specific problem you inherited due to the Trump Administration's failed COVID response: the distribution of federal government provided vaccine doses to the State of Illinois. According to new data published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Illinois currently ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the country in terms of per capita vaccine distribution from the federal government.<sup>1</sup> We do not understand why there would be sizable geographic differences in per capita vaccine distribution across the country, but as you work to fix the errors made by the previous Administration and implement your vaccine distribution plan, it is imperative that this lag in distribution to Illinois be rectified.

Illinois is home to the third-largest international airport and the third-largest metropolitan area in the United States, making the further spread of COVID-19 and its new variants arriving from the United Kingdom and South Africa a serious threat to the well-being and health of our constituents. As federal elected officials from Illinois, we request a briefing from your office on (1) why the per capita distribution differences arose among different states; (2) how our state will be provided adequate distribution of vaccine doses in a more expedient manner; and (3) what steps will be taken to ensure our state no longer receives significantly lower doses of vaccines per capita from the U.S. government.

Please contact our offices with any questions about this request. We look forward to continued cooperation with this effort.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> Pyke, Marni. "State records most COVID-19 vaccination doses administered since rollout." (January 27, 2021)  
<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20210127/state-records-most-covid-19-vaccination-doses-administered-since-rollout>