



6,000 join Rep. Slotkin for COVID-19 tele-town hall with Lt. Gov. Gilchrist, MDHHS's Hertel

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin (MI-8) this evening led a telephone town hall with more than 6,000 constituents to update them on what Congress is doing to address the coronavirus crisis, answer their concerns and hear their feedback on what more Congress can do.

Slotkin was joined by Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist and by Elizabeth Hertel, the chief deputy director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, for the hour-and-fifteen-minute long tele-town hall.

"We instinctively want to be together in times of crisis, but this particular crisis makes in-person gatherings a health risk," Slotkin said. "We can't let that keep us from communicating. I wanted the people of the 8th District to hear my perspective, but it's even more important that I hear from them about what more we can do to help keep their families safe and help them cope with this emergency."

Slotkin fielded questions on the U.S. Treasury Department's announcement today that it will delay the April 15 tax deadline by 90 days for most taxpayers; on how 8th District small businesses can take advantage of federal small business loan programs; what support the Department of Defense can provide to Michigan and other states; on the availability of unemployment benefits; and about expanded Medicare coverage for doctor appointments by telephone.

Lt. Gov. Gilchrist discussed the state's response to the crisis, including executive orders issued by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to close schools, restrict large gatherings and close food and drink establishments to inside diners. Hertel addressed a number of questions about coronavirus symptoms and treatment, and also discussed how the state government is working with health care facilities across Michigan to prepare for a possible increase in cases.

Slotkin also asked constituents to provide their feedback on what priorities she should pursue as Congress considers additional economic recovery legislation in the days ahead, especially to draw on lessons Michiganders learned during the 2008-2009 financial crisis and recovery. She is actively calling on 8th district residents to give her feedback on economic recovery ideas through her website at slotkin.house.gov/contact.

Slotkin briefed callers on coronavirus relief package the House has already passed: an \$8.3

billion emergency spending bill, signed into law March 6, that supports medical research and front-line medical and public health personnel; and a second bill, the Families First Coronavirus Recovery Act, passed by the House to provide assistance to affected working families, such as paid sick leave and family leave for small-business employees, enhanced unemployment benefits, food and nutritional assistance, and funding to make sure no one must pay for coronavirus testing, regardless of insurance status.

Slotkin also announced that her office is planning a business summit to discuss the effects of the crisis in the days ahead.