FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS

"House Republicans stood united and unanimously opposed the partisan appropriations bills that Speaker Pelosi brought to the House floor this summer.

We made it clear we would not accept the Democrats' vision to defund, dismantle, and destroy our country. Because we stood together, we were able to push back on the Democrats' demands during negotiations on final FY21 bills."

- Kay Granger, Appropriations Committee Republican Leader

Top Line



Maintains ALL pro-life protections;



Prioritizes national security, continues to rebuild our military, and modernizes our nuclear stockpile;



Funds the border wall and rejects Democrats' attempts to prevent President Trump from transferring additional funds to address this priority;



Retains long-standing Second Amendment protections that Democrats wanted to eliminate; and



Drops poison pill riders inserted by Democrats, such as those that would have defunded the police.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS

Republican Wins and Democrat Losses

Because House Republicans stood together in opposition and unanimously opposed Speaker Pelosi's partisan appropriations bills when they were brought to the House floor, we were able to secure significant wins for Republicans and losses for Democrats in the final agreement.

The final agreement:

- Prioritizes national security and continues to rebuild our military.
- ✓ Funds the Trump Administration's request for the U.S. Marshals Service's Federal Prisoner Detention program to address rapidly increasing detainee population levels resulting from the Administration's stepped-up enforcement of firearm, drug, and immigration violations.
- ✓ Assists Border Patrol Agents by providing \$20 million for new border processing coordinators.
- ✓ Funds the border wall, providing \$1.375 billion in new funding.
- Protects President Trump's authority to:
 - Transfer funds for the border wall;
 - Use funds for immigration and border law enforcement actions;
 - Respond to immigration detention capacity needs;
 - Review and roll back left-wing environmental regulations on methane, Mercury and Air Toxics Standards ("MATS"), and Particulate Matter Air Quality Standards;
 - Overhaul National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, which help streamline the development of infrastructure projects; and
 - Finalize guidance to prevent extreme delays on energy infrastructure projects.
- Protects the sanctity of life by maintaining all prior-year pro-life funding restrictions and not including any new hostile language.
- ✓ Maintains the longstanding "Dickey Amendment" which prohibits use of funds to advocate or promote gun control.
- Secures the largest pro-life victory in a generation by maintaining the Trump Administration's Title X Family Planning regulations, which have resulted in abortion providers - such as Planned Parenthood - leaving the federal program.
- Continues current prohibitions on closing GITMO and transferring detainees.



- ✓ Eliminates poison pill riders inserted by Democrats that would have:
 - Restricted the ability to detain migrants in the country illegally;
 - Allowed taxpayer dollars to fund lawyers for migrants arriving at our southern border;
 - Prevented funds from being used to litigate cases against the Affordable Care Act;
 - Imposed onerous, unauthorized new conditions on law enforcement grant programs that
 would have halted funds for active shooter response training, school violence prevention
 measures, and law enforcement suicide prevention grants, among many other important law
 enforcement programs, indefinitely;
 - Reduced the ability of federal law enforcement officers to fight crime in major U.S. cities and control riots;
 - Prohibited any new offshore conventional energy production;
 - Blocked domestic energy production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and mining in the Rainy River Watershed in northern Minnesota;
 - Prevented the review of the immigration status of families receiving HUD assistance;
 - Limited D.C. private schools from participating in the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act; and
 - Permanently blocked regulatory reforms in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- ✓ Rejects efforts by Democrats to repeal long-standing provisions that would have:
 - Eliminated long-standing Second Amendment protections and allowed funds to be used to implement the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty;
 - Allowed the listing of sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act, which could limit energy and mineral development in 11 western states;
 - Failed to exempt farmers and livestock producers from burdensome greenhouse gas permitting and reporting requirements;
 - Limited the safety and effectiveness of ammunition by regulating lead content;
 - Allowed implementation of policies that do not recognize the carbon neutrality of biomass;
 and
 - Allowed funding for United Nations peacekeeping operations above the statutory cap of 25 percent.



FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS

Overview of Key Provisions

Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration

Rural Broadband - Provides \$732 million for rural broadband, the highest level in history, including \$635 million for the ReConnect broadband pilot for unserved and underserved areas as well as \$60 million for Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants.

Genetic Modification of Human Embryos - Prohibits the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from approving research on the genetic modification of human embryos.

SNAP Integrity - Provides funding for the National Accuracy Clearinghouse to verify and recertify applicant household incomes to prevent duplicative issuances of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called Food Stamps) benefits and improve program integrity.

Disaster Relief for Farmers and Ranchers - Includes an estimated \$1.5 billion to cover previous commitments made in the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP) to support eligible farmers and ranchers around the country who suffered financial losses as a result of natural disasters that occurred in calendar years 2018 and 2019.

Agriculture Research - Invests more than \$3.4 billion in critical agriculture research, ensuring food and fiber production for a growing population.

Rural Communities - Provides \$3.9 billion for rural development programs, as well as more than \$38.1 billion in loans for rural housing, rural utilities, and rural businesses, which assists in building sustainable rural infrastructure for the modern economy and helps create an environment for economic growth and opportunity.

Food and Drug Administration - Includes new language and funding related to foreign drug inspections, including a focus on pharmaceuticals produced in India and China. The bill provides FDA with critical funding increases in the amount of \$22 million for medical product safety. Within the increases: \$9 million is for Transforming Medical Device Safety, \$5 million is for Modernizing Influenza Vaccines, \$3.5 million is for Foreign Unannounced Human Drug Inspection Pilot, and \$2.5 is million for Rare Cancer Therapeutics.

Commerce, Justice, and Science

Space - Supports the Trump Administration's Artemis initiative, accelerating the return of the United States to the Moon, which is essential to stay ahead of Russia and China.



Law Enforcement - Strongly supports our nation's federal, state, and local law enforcement officers by increasing funding for the Department of Justice and preserving federal grant programs that bolster state and local efforts to keep our communities safe. Expands law enforcement resources in support of mental and behavioral health intervention teams, de-escalation training, agencies gaining accreditation, and small and rural law enforcement agencies.

Federal Prisoner Detention - Fully funds the Trump Administration's request for the U.S. Marshals Service's Federal Prisoner Detention program in response to rapidly increasing detainee population levels resulting from the Administration's stepped-up enforcement of firearm, drug, and immigration violations.

Bolsters School Safety - Provides increased funding for Department of Justice initiatives, such as the STOP School Violence and the COPS Hiring programs, which expand threat assessment, violence prevention, school hardening, and resource officer support.

Industries of the Future - Increases funding for artificial intelligence research and quantum information science.

Substance Abuse - Advances treatment and recovery initiatives and improves prevention and enforcement by investing \$541 million in grant programs that support drug courts, prescription drug monitoring, overdose-reversal drugs, and at-risk youth programs. Protects our communities from heroin, fentanyl, and methamphetamines by increasing federal law enforcement resources to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers.

Second Amendment - Retains long-standing Second Amendment protections that Democrats wanted to eliminate and prevents funds from being used to implement the Arms Trade Treaty.

Lawyers for Migrants - Eliminates a rider inserted by Democrats that would have created a new program to fund lawyers for migrants arriving at our southern border.

Immigration Judges - Supports the continued hiring of additional judges to address the backlog in immigration cases.

Obamacare - Eliminates a rider inserted by Democrats that would have prevented funds from being used to litigate cases against the Affordable Care Act.

Untested Rape Kits - Increases funding to address the backlog of untested rape kits so more offenders can be taken off our streets and survivors can get the justice they deserve.

Cyber Criminals - Supports advanced technological capabilities used to target malicious cyber criminals, keep pace with the high volume of background checks, and dismantle organized crime on the Darknet by increasing funding for the Federal Bureau of Investigation by \$362 million.

Criminals with Guns - Reduces violent and gun crimes by:

- Fully funding the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS);
- Increasing funding for U.S. Attorneys; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and
 U.S. Marshals Service to address violent crime; and
- Providing \$85 million in grants to states to improve records used in background checks, and \$24 million for police active shooter and survivability training.

Drug Trafficking - Increases funding for the Drug Enforcement Administration to disrupt drug trafficking and money laundering organizations responsible for the nation's illicit drug supply.



Defense

Our Military - Provides funding needed to continue to rebuild the military after years of neglect.

Our Troops and Their Families - Provides the funding needed to support a three percent pay raise for all military personnel, effective January 1, 2021, and addresses childcare and other quality of life issues critical to supporting our brave war-fighting men and women and their families.

Restrictions on Border Security - Removes harmful Democrat restrictions on President Trump's ability to use funds to address border security needs.

Health of Our Troops - Provides \$34 billion for Defense Health programs to support our servicemembers; research traumatic brain injury and suicide; and continue research to defeat the many forms of cancer affecting our men and women in uniform.

U.S. Space Force - Funds the U.S. Space Force, a Trump Administration initiative and priority that is vital to ensure the United States maintains its superiority in space.

Strong Support of Israel - Fully funds the U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding by providing \$500 million for Israeli Cooperative programs, including the Iron Dome.

F-35s - Funds a total of 96 F-35s that are essential for the United States to maintain air dominance and superiority over China and Russia.

Shipbuilding - Provides \$23.3 billion for Navy shipbuilding, including funding for two Virginia Class Submarines, three Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers, and \$2.9 billion for the Columbia-class nuclear submarine program.

Missile Defense - Strengthens our land-based nuclear defense systems by providing \$1.5 billion for Ground Based Strategic Deterrent modernization.

Energy and Water

Army Corps of Engineers - Funds the Army Corps of Engineers at \$7.8 billion, an increase of \$145 million above the enacted FY20 level, with funding directed predominantly to navigation and flood control improvements.

Nuclear National Security - Provides \$19.7 billion for the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons security programs, an increase of \$3 billion above the enacted FY20 level. This funding is necessary to ensure the maintenance and modernization of our nuclear stockpile and Naval nuclear reactors.

Key Nuclear Weapons - Fully funds the Trump Administration's request for National Nuclear Security Administration programs necessary to extend the life of key nuclear weapons systems and to produce strategic materials, such as plutonium pits.

"All-Of-The-Above" Energy - Continues to advance the nation's "all-of-the-above" solution to energy independence through targeted investments in research and development in all energy sources, including nuclear, fossil, geothermal, and hydropower, as well as solar and wind.

Infrastructure - Provides \$368 million to protect our nation's energy infrastructure against cyber and other attacks and to increase the efficiency and technological advancement of the nation's electricity delivery system.



Financial Services and General Government

Sanctity of Life - Prohibits coverage of abortions in the Federal Employee Health Benefit plan and bans both federal and local revenues from being used for abortion in our nation's capital.

Terrorist Financing - Combats the financing of terrorism and terrorist groups and strengthens the implementation of sanctions against our adversaries such as Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Syria by providing increased funding for the Treasury Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence.

Small Business Administration - Enables growth and development by increasing funding for grants programs supporting small businesses such as Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers and by supporting business and disaster loan programs, providing America's small businesses and disaster victims the opportunity to obtain much needed capital.

Drug Epidemic - Combats the drug epidemic by increasing funds for Office of National Drug Control Policy programs such as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas and Drug Free Communities.

Foreign Investments - Fully funds the national security review of foreign investment from China, Russia, and other nations by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

Democrat Riders - Eliminates riders inserted by Democrats that would have:

- Prohibited the Treasury Forfeiture Fund from being used for the border wall;
- Limited D.C. private schools participating in the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR)
 Act;
- Limited the Securities and Exchange Commission's ability to help small businesses raise capital; and
- Curtailed agencies' discretion to place reasonable limitations on the use of official time, telework, and agency space for employee unions.

Long-Standing Protections - Stops attempts by Democrats to remove long-standing protections that:

- Prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring corporations to report their political spending in corporate filings;
- Prohibit federal contractors from having to report political spending as part of the procurement process; and
- Prohibit changes to rules pertaining to 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations.

Homeland Security

Border Wall - Provides \$1.375 billion in new funding for the border wall.

President's Ability to Fund Immigration and Border Enforcement Activities - Removes harmful restrictions on the President's ability to use funds for immigration and border enforcement actions, including removing provisions to limit detention.

Disaster Response and Recovery - Provides \$17.1 billion for the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund to continue assistance and response to disasters affecting communities.

Border Patrol - Assists Border Patrol Agents by providing \$20 million for new border processing coordinators and \$103 million for improvements to border patrol facilities.



Border Assets - Provides \$45 million over the Trump Administration's request for investments in border security technology, including at ports of entry, and \$80 million over the request for additional enforcement aircraft and helicopters.

Coast Guard - Provides increased funding for investments in personnel and air and marine assets, including new Polar Security Cutter construction, additional Fast Response and Offshore Patrol Cutters, helicopter recapitalization, and aircraft acquisition. Addresses significant backlogs in aviation and shore construction needs.

FEMA - Provides \$3.3 billion for FEMA grant programs to assist states and localities to prepare for, mitigate, and respond to disasters.

Cybersecurity Education and Training - Provides \$29.5 million for investments in cyber defense and training programs to ensure America has the workforce and knowledge to protect our cyber systems, and \$10.5 million to establish a Joint Cyber Center for National Cyber Defense.

U.S. Secret Service - Provides \$29 million above the budget request to sustain and increase capabilities at the National Computer Forensics Institute to combat electronic crimes.

Science & Technology - Provides \$44 million for University Program Centers of Excellence and Minority Serving Institutions for improved research and development.

Interior and Environment

Democrat Riders - Eliminates riders and policy provisions inserted by Democrats that would have:

- Prohibited any new offshore conventional energy production;
- Undermined the Trump Administration's ability to review and roll back left-wing environmental regulations on methane, Mercury and Air Toxics Standards ("MATS"), Particulate Matter Air Quality Standards, and Waters of the U.S. ("WOTUS");
- Blocked domestic energy production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and mining in the Rainy River Watershed in northern Minnesota;
- Blocked the Trump Administration's overhaul of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, which help streamline the development of infrastructure projects;
- Prohibited the Trump Administration's ability to finalize guidance to prevent extreme delays in energy infrastructure projects; and
- Blocked road construction for harvesting timber in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

Wildfires - Provides \$1.4 billion for Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service wildfire suppression operations, in addition to the \$2.35 billion wildfire suppression cap adjustment, to fight devastating wildfires that threaten our communities.

Sage-Grouse - Prohibits the listing of sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act, which could limit energy and mineral development in 11 western states.

Infrastructure - Increases funding for state grants and programs aimed at addressing aging infrastructure, improving water quality, and accelerating the remediation of Superfund sites to spur economic development and create jobs.



Indian Tribes - Furthers the federal commitment to meet trust and treaty obligations to Indian Tribes by providing \$359 million above the enacted level - the largest increase in the bill.

Greenhouse Gas Regulations - Relieves farmers and livestock producers from burdensome greenhouse gas permitting and reporting requirements.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes - Fully funds Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), which fill budget shortfalls caused by nontaxable federal lands in 49 states, supporting essential local services like education and public safety.

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

Sanctity of Life - Maintains ALL prior-year pro-life funding restrictions, including:

- Prohibits federal funds from being used to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or life endangerment of the mother;
- Prohibits the creation or destruction of embryos for research purposes; and
- Maintains rape reporting requirements in the Title X Family Planning Program.

Planned Parenthood - There is no funding in this bill that is directed to Planned Parenthood.

National Institutes of Health - Continues America's global leadership in basic science research and advances biomedical research by providing \$43 billion for the National Institutes of Health, an increase of \$1.25 billion above the enacted FY20 level. This critical funding includes:

- \$3 billion for Alzheimer's disease; and
- More than \$6 billion for cancer research, including funding for the Trump Administration's childhood cancer initiative.

Opioids and Methamphetamines - Provides \$5.9 billion for substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, and research into alternative therapies for pain management.

Regulations Reduction - Eliminates dangerous and irresponsible riders inserted by Democrats, which would hinder the Administration's efforts to roll back regulations. Specifically, the bill:

- Removes a prohibition on the Department of Health and Human Services' efforts to ensure that the conscience rights of health care providers are protected with respect to participation in abortions;
- Removes a prohibition on the Department of Labor's implementation of the Joint Employer regulation, which protects business franchises from frivolous lawsuits; and
- Maintains the President's authority to transfer and reprogram funds.

Liberal Regulations - Prevents dangerous efforts by Democrats to reinstitute regulations that:

- Prohibited faith-based organizations from participating in programs while exercising their sincerely held religious beliefs;
- Required family planning centers to refer patients for abortion; and
- Required Planned Parenthood clinics to continue to receive grants under the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program.



Legislative Branch

Immigration - Drops Democrats' demands to modify hiring policies for the Legislative Branch that would have allowed taxpayer funds to employ those here illegally.

Modernization Initiatives - Creates the Modernization Initiatives Account to help implement the recommendations of the Select Committee on Modernization of Congress to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Legislative Branch so that it can better serve the American people.

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs

Military Construction and Family Housing - Provides a total of \$8.064 billion for military construction and family housing projects.

- Includes an additional \$60 million for a total of \$200 million over two years to improve the Defense Department's oversight of privatized military housing;
- Provides \$206 million to build four new child development centers and increase the pace of planning and design for additional centers; and
- Includes \$100 million above the budget request to clean up PFOS/PFOA at closed military installations.

Key Veterans Programs - Fully funds veterans' healthcare, including the MISSION Act's community care program, as well as other critical programs.

Electronic Health Records - Provides a total of \$2.63 billion to continue VA's transition to a new electronic health records system and increases congressional oversight of the program.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention - Provides a total of \$10.3 billion for VA mental health programs, including \$313 million for suicide prevention outreach.

Veteran Homelessness - Provides a total of \$1.9 billion to prevent veteran homelessness, including \$420 million for Supportive Services for Veterans Families and \$270 million for the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program.

Women Veterans - Provides \$661 million for gender-specific care to ensure VA meets the needs of women veterans, including \$1 million for peer support programs.

Medical and Prosthetic Research - Provides \$815 million for VA Medical and Prosthetic Research, an increase of \$15 million above the enacted FY20 level.



State and Foreign Operations

Sanctity of Life -

- Maintains last year's level for family planning; and
- Maintains ALL prior-year pro-life funding restrictions, including:
 - The Kemp-Kasten Amendment, which prohibits any foreign aid to any organization that the Trump Administration determines is involved in coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. Specifically, the bill blocks an attempt to roll back President Trump's determination to prohibit funds from going to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);
 - The Helms Amendment, which states foreign assistance funds may not be used for abortion as a means of family planning; and
 - The Tiahrt Amendment, which puts restrictions on how USAID funds can be used for family planning projects.

Global Health - Blocks an attempt by Democrats to roll back President Trump's Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy, also known as the expanded Mexico City Policy, that requires foreign non-governmental organizations to certify they will not use funds from any source to perform abortions as a condition of receiving U.S. global health assistance.

Green Climate Fund - Removes a \$500 million funding requirement for the Green Climate Fund. **Strong Support of Israel** - Strongly supports our ally Israel and fulfills the U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding by providing \$3.3 billion for military assistance.

Russian Influence - Provides \$290 million for the Countering Russian Influence Fund, which provides critical resources to contest Russian influence campaigns and hybrid warfare in Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia.

Growing Threats from China -

- Provides \$569 million for the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, an increase of \$270 million above the prior year level;
- Includes additional flexibility to counter harmful Chinese debt-trap diplomacy by combining equity financing, loans, and technical assistance in a single program account;
- Provides nearly \$1.5 billion to support implementation of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy and \$300 million for the global Countering China Influence Fund (CCIF); and
- Includes \$3 million for democracy programs in Hong Kong, an increase of \$1.5 million over the prior year.

United Nations Peacekeeping - Removes Democrats' insertion of authority and funding for United Nations peacekeeping operations above the statutory cap of 25 percent.



Transportation and Housing and Urban Development

Electronic Logging Device (ELD) Requirements - Exempts agricultural haulers from burdensome ELD requirements, providing much-needed regulatory relief.

California High Speed Rail - Allows the Trump Administration to reallocate \$929 million from the failed California High Speed Rail project.

Wasteful HUD Spending - Cuts \$933 million in unnecessary HUD spending below the Democrats' House-passed bill.

Infrastructure - Provides funding for Republican infrastructure priorities:

- \$2 billion for highway infrastructure grants, \$1 billion above the Democrats' House-passed bill;
- \$1 billion for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants, including a requirement that half of the grants go to rural communities;
- \$400 million for discretionary airport grants; and
- \$3.5 billion for Community Development Block Grants, \$50 million above FY20.

Housing-Related Riders - Eliminates riders inserted by Democrats that would have prevented the Trump Administration from:

- Reviewing the immigration status of families receiving HUD assistance; and
- Providing flexibility to local homeless service providers regarding transgender policies.



Coronavirus-Related Appropriations Provisions

- \$635 million to shore up the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program responsible for screening passengers and cargo at the border to stop foreign animal and plant pests and diseases from entering the country. The funds will also allow USDA flexibility to transfer funds to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assist with such screening at the border.
- \$300 million to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus in Federal prisons.
- \$125 million for United States Marshals Service, Federal Prisoner Detention, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- \$179 million for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including to make necessary improvements to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and to offset the loss resulting from the coronavirus pandemic of Criminal Justice Information Services fees.
- \$50 million for the National Archives and Records Administration's Federal Records Center Program to pay for fixed operational costs that are normally funded through fee collections. These funds will help accelerate processing of veterans' requests for military service records.
- \$840 million to address customs fee-related shortfalls for Customs and Border Protection.
- \$10 million for the Government Accountability Office to review and examine the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Allows transfers of previously appropriated CARES funds to the Veterans Benefits Administration, the National Cemetery Administration, and the Board of Veterans Appeals to address the increased backlog due to the coronavirus response.
- Allows transfers of previously appropriated CARES funds to the Veterans Benefits Administration and Information Technology Systems accounts to support necessary updates in the administration of education benefits due to the coronavirus response.
- Allows transfer of previously appropriated CARES funds to support State Veterans Homes.
- Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct new grant competitions to support state efforts to modify or alter existing facilities due to the coronavirus response utilizing previously appropriated CARES funds.
- Clarifies the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' ability to increase grants and per diem payments to support homeless veterans during a public health emergency utilizing previously appropriated CARES funds.
- \$4 billion for a United States contribution to GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance, to fight the coronavirus abroad so it does not return to the United States.
- \$300 million to support the Department of State's domestic and international consular operations.
- Allows additional time for Millennium Challenge Corporation compacts to be completed due to delays in implementation.
- \$23 million for the Essential Air Service (EAS) to ensure continued air service to rural communities.
- Modifies funding formulas for several airport-related programs due to reduced travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

