

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

December 23, 2020

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Washington, DC 20301

General Gustavo Perna  
Chief Operating Officer, Operation Warp Speed  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dr. Slaoui and General Perna:

We write to request more information on the changes made to vaccine allocations for the state of Wisconsin. As you know, safe and effective vaccines are a key part of our effort to fully combat the pandemic. Our state needs robust, accurate, and transparent information in order to develop vaccination plans and effectively vaccinate our frontline health care workers and long-term-care facility residents in this early stage of the vaccination process.

As recently as one week ago, Wisconsin was told that it would receive 49,725 doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine. However, on December 18, Governor Evers announced that the state had received updated numbers and would in fact receive almost 15,000 fewer doses of the Pfizer vaccine than previously anticipated.<sup>1</sup> Several other states issued similar announcements.<sup>2</sup>

On December 19, General Gustavo Perna issued a public apology describing the confusion as a "planning error".<sup>3</sup> Our state needs consistency and a commitment that these issues will be fixed and will not happen again.

In order to ensure that Wisconsin is able to effectively plan and carry out a successful COVID-19 vaccination campaign, we request your response to the following questions:

1. How is Operation Warp Speed (OWS) working to ensure that the information provided to states is consistent, accurate, and informative?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://journaltimes.com/news/local/wisconsin-receiving-14-625-fewer-pfizer-vaccine-doses-in-first-round-of-distribution-than-expected/article\\_eb0ba7af-8513-552e-95d4-e9db4f151ca9.html#tncms-source=login](https://journaltimes.com/news/local/wisconsin-receiving-14-625-fewer-pfizer-vaccine-doses-in-first-round-of-distribution-than-expected/article_eb0ba7af-8513-552e-95d4-e9db4f151ca9.html#tncms-source=login)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-18/u-s-states-say-they-re-getting-less-covid-vaccine-than-expected>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/12/19/coronavirus-vaccine-overcount-warp-speed-448692>

2. What is OWS's plan going forward to ensure that when information or circumstances change, those changes are clearly and quickly communicated to states?
3. Please describe any official communications with the state department of health to provide accurate vaccine allocations.
4. Please provide an update on efforts to share vaccine allocations with both the state department of health as well as Congress on a weekly basis.
5. Wisconsin was told to expect over 100,000 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which will primarily be used in long-term care facilities. Over the course of the past week, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has been notified that they should instead expect only 16,000 doses, a number which changed once during a single 24-hour period and which they have been told could change again. How many doses of the Moderna vaccine should Wisconsin expect to receive over the next two weeks? When will they receive the full allotment of 100,000 doses?
6. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) indicated in a recent letter shared with state health officials that the department intended for the initial Pfizer allocations shared to be used for "planning purposes" and that the numbers "could be refined." Please describe how this potential for change was communicated to states earlier in the year, any efforts made to clarify allocation amounts prior to December 17, the range of possible allocations that were shared with state health officials to allow for comprehensive planning purposes, and how OWS is working to provide allocation quantities that can actually be used for planning purposes, including adequate advance notice for vaccine allocations.

As the vaccination process rolls out, we need to ensure that the federal government and states are effectively working together. In order to successfully execute a vaccination campaign on this scale, we need accurate and timely information and communication between all levels of government. We stand ready to support these efforts and keep our nation moving forward.

Sincerely,



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress