

THOM TILLIS  
NORTH CAROLINA

113 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BLDG  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
PH: (202) 224-6342

<https://tillis.senate.gov>

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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Dr. Stephen Hahn  
Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
Department of Health and Human Services  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hahn:

I write to you today regarding the ongoing threat of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and access to diagnostic tests. I am grateful for your leadership and appreciate the administration's bold efforts to contain the spread of the disease and to accelerate the development of vaccines, diagnostics, and medical countermeasures.

As I mentioned in a letter to Vice President Pence yesterday, as a U.S. Senator, my top priority is ensuring the health, safety, and peace of mind for North Carolinians and all Americans. A key aspect of that is ensuring that my state has the capacity to meet current and future demands for diagnostic testing.

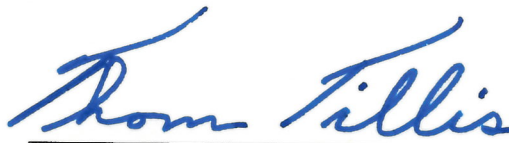
As you know, North Carolina is home to cutting edge medical institutions, including academic medical centers, world class health centers, and global leaders in biopharmaceutical research and development. Among those are the University of North Carolina, Duke University Health System, and LabCorp, all of whom bring their unique expertise to bear when it comes to ground breaking innovation in the diagnostic space.

Our partners have a demonstrated ability and willingness to put the full weight of their expertise in play to mitigate this enduring threat to our public health, leading to the development of tests that provide results in a matter of hours rather than days. They have also advanced innovative protocols that maintain efficacy while utilizing a one target assay, which will conserve reagents that are currently in short supply. I am extremely grateful for your collaboration and partnership with our academic medical centers, and look forward to future cooperation to leverage the scale and efficiency of the private sector to increase our capacity to reach tens of thousands of patients daily.

To that end, I urge you to empower FDA to exercise maximum flexibility when considering innovative diagnostic solutions that will make test kits available to our frontline health care providers without delay, allowing patients from North Carolina and throughout the nation to have certainty about their health status, and enable our public health professionals to take the appropriate steps to prevent the further spread of this infectious disease.

Again, I thank you for your strong leadership, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I, or any of North Carolina's leading entities, can be of assistance during your critical response and prevention efforts.

Respectfully,



Thom Tillis  
U.S. Senator

CHARLOTTE OFFICE:  
9300 HARRIS CORNERS PKWY  
SUITE 170  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28269  
PH: (704) 509-9087

RALEIGH OFFICE:  
310 NEW BERN AVE  
SUITE 122  
RALEIGH, NC 27601  
PH: (919) 856-4630

HIGH POINT OFFICE:  
1840 EASTCHESTER DR  
SUITE 200  
HIGH POINT, NC 27265  
PH: (336) 885-0685

GREENVILLE OFFICE:  
1694 E ARLINGTON BLVD  
SUITE B  
GREENVILLE, NC 27858  
PH: (252) 329-0371

HENDERSONVILLE OFFICE:  
1 HISTORIC COURTHOUSE SQ  
SUITE 112  
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792  
PH: (828) 693-8750