Q: Congress formulates policy. Sometimes Congress makes policy that responds to a crisis. What has Congress done to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic? What else do you think they could do? The second answer should be your opinion on what else Congress can do to help you or your family.

A:

The ongoing crisis of COVID-19 has caused an extreme public health crisis just as significant economic disruption for each American. Policymakers have been thinking about enactment to help deal with the pandemic and alleviate the monetary weight on families and organizations. After doing some research on what Congress has been doing regarding this crisis, I found that Congress has spent a lot of money in creating different legislations. They have provided billions of dollars in emergency funding for public health agencies and coronavirus vaccine research, which I think is very essential as they are the first line soldiers who are fighting against it and saving lives. On March 18, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was enacted to provide economic support to those in need. Families First Coronavirus Response Act included key components like enhancing unemployment insurance benefits, increasing federal Medicaid and food-security spending, and providing free coverage for COVID-19 testing. Another legislation, namely CARES Act, has also been created to provide financial support to smaller businesses and families with income trouble. Congress has also done a great job in making sure that the bigger businesses run properly as well. I think this was an important step that is to not neglect bigger businesses that help the economy as well, along with the smaller businesses.

Most of the things congress did included providing money to different organizations and people in general. This is going to be crucial if the situation does not get controlled soon. The best way to stop the spread is for people themselves to understand and revise their actions, and looking at the current situation, it has not been done so actively. I believe Congress should take this up to their job to do whatever necessary to pass laws that make people be more careful. One thing I think Congress could have done was to implement laws that require certain restrictions and people gathering more strictly. I feel that people have started to take the pandemic lightly even though there is no solid information available about the virus. Not wearing masks, large public gatherings, and not social distancing enough has caused the spread immensely. I believe, some mandatory restrictions on these activities or laws that have some serious consequences if not followed will make people take it seriously and will make them think before any unprecedented actions.

Source: https://www.pgpf.org/blog/2020/04/heres-everything-congress-has-done-to-respond-to-the-coronavirus-so-far