

Pandemic Testing Board Fact Sheet

What it is:

- ❖ The 'Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience' released by the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University in April 2020 originally proposed the federal government form a Pandemic Testing Board (PTB) with two primary functions¹:
 - Pandemic Testing Supply Initiative: identify, procure, and mandate the production of testing materials by contracting with producers and servicers
 - Pandemic Testing Deployment Initiative: recommend to states how to source and manage the additional testing facilities and personnel needed to accomplish mass daily testing
- ❖ Isolating Together further emphasizes the Pandemic Testing Board's role in ensuring equitable distribution of COVID-19 testing resources and prioritizing support for disproportionately affected low-income and BIPOC communities.

How it would be formed:

- ❖ This board would be created by Congress through legislation allowing an interstate compact. Members would be selected by lead states and additional funding would be supplied by congressional appropriation.

Why we are calling for it:

- ❖ The fragmented approach of the United States government to manage COVID-19 has largely left testing and contact tracing protocols up to state and regional officials, creating confusion in the testing resources market. The PTB is needed to coordinate the complex supply chain for testing resources. The PTB will more effectively mobilize the resources we have, achieving the massive scale of testing needed to precisely manage the pandemic. Instead of broad stay-at-home orders, quarantines would be handled on an individual level, suppressing COVID-19 while allowing the economy to safely reopen and continue functioning amid case spikes. Not only would the PTB mitigate our immediate crisis, but it would better prepare us for future crises.

¹ Danielle Allen et al., "Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience: Massive Scale Testing, Tracing, and Supported Isolation (TTSI) as the Path to Pandemic Resilience for a Free Society." Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. April 20, 2020.
https://ethics.harvard.edu/files/center-for-ethics/files/roadmaptopandemicresilience_updated_4.20.20_0.pdf