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# Legislative Group COVID-19 Update

March 23, 2020 | 4:15 p.m.

## Congressional and Legislative Updates

After failing to advance to debate on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) this afternoon, Senate leaders continue their work with each other and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on the bill. The defeat of the measure a second time (the Senate also declined to advance to the bill on Sunday) raises procedural hurdles. Under the Senate rules, the reconsideration of a vote to move to a bill can happen only once. Accordingly, the Senate now goes back to “square one,” meaning once the CARES Act is filed, an intervening day must pass before the Senate can vote on the bill. Unanimous consent would be required to bypass the intervening day. If the Senate reaches a deal, consent to bypass the procedural hurdle is possible.

Meanwhile, Speaker Nancy Pelosi circulated a 1400-page House bill to address COVID-19 today. The “Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act,” a section-by-section summary of which is attached, addresses many issues addressed in the Senate bill and includes more of the Democrats’ priorities. Previously, many thought that Speaker Pelosi’s plan to introduce a House bill was a political move designed to encourage the Senate to agree on – and move – its bill. With the exception of Speaker Pelosi and a handful of others, most House members are currently in their respective districts. Speaker Pelosi said previously she would give members 24 hours’ notice prior to any vote. In light of the reticence to have members fly back to DC for votes, however, the House Rules Committee has been working on a way to allow members to vote remotely. There is word that House Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern (D-MA) has worked out a deal to allow for remote voting on this stimulus package, whether it originates in the Senate or the House.