



Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.



President Harry S. Truman

To help the nation handle the COVID 19/Novel Coronavirus pandemic, the federal government is using the [Defense Production Act \(DPA\)](#).

Passed by Congress and signed by President Truman in 1950, the DPA authorizes the president of the United States to direct American companies to focus production on certain goods in times of national emergency. This [act](#) has been used multiple times for a variety of reasons, in order to help meet the [needs of the nation](#). As [President Truman said](#) when he signed the Defense Production Act into law, “every American must ask himself what he can do to help keep this Nation strong...”

During this pandemic, President Trump has directed American companies to produce goods necessary for fighting the virus and supporting various economic needs across the country.

The Defense Production Act enables the federal government to:

1. Require companies to accept and prioritize government contracts;
2. Prohibit price gouging and supply hoarding on essential goods and services;
3. Provide special financial help when requiring companies to expand their production of essential goods to meet the needs of the emergency; and
4. Prevent the foreign ownership of industry deemed essential to national security.

To Think and To Do: Based on the four provisions of the act above, how does the Defense Production Act help keep the nation strong?



Learn MORE about the Defense Production Act. Free registration may be required.

- [Defense Production Act](#), from FEMA
- [President Truman’s address on the DPA](#), from The American Presidency Project
- [President Trump’s Memoranda on the DPA](#), from The White House