

Congress may not pass coronavirus relief

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Asked
Thursday on MSNBC whether there could be a deal before the election, Pelosi said: "We could do it in the House. You hear what the leader in the Senate is saying, but that's really up to the president. We're negotiating with him. We've made progress, and I have to say we've made progress in this regard. "

Larry Kudlow, a top economic adviser to President Trump, echoed that sentiment last week during an interview with FOX Business, warning that it would be "almost impossible" to executive a relief package before the election, even if Congress overcame a monthslong impasse and reached an agreement on more aid. "Maybe some of it could be executed, " he said. "But you certainly couldn't get a grand, large deal. "

Kudlow said Wednesday on CNBC that a relief package during the lame-duck session, after the election but before the next administration starts, "could be a possibility. "

Still, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows acknowledged the difficulty of passing legislation after Nov. 3, particularly with the White House and Senate both up for grabs this year. "I don't think our chances get better after election, " Meadows said on Fox News. "I think the next 24 to 48 hours will tell us a whole lot. " Democrats and Republicans sharply disagree over the size and scope of another relief bill and are billions of dollars apart in their proposals, unable to reconcile key policy differences on issues such as a virus testing plan, aid to state and local governments and tax cuts for low- and middle-income families.

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