Senate Banking Committee hearing on Tuesday
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A group of Republican and Democratic lawmakers unveiled a $908 billion stimulus plan on Dec. 1, in an attempt to break through partisan gridlock after months of failed relief negotiations.

Lawmakers and the White House are facing growing pressure to pass additional coronavirus relief as COVID-19 cases surge, states and cities put more restrictions in place and existing relief programs soon expire.

�It�s not the time for political brinkmanship, � said Sen. Joe Manchin (D., W. V.) at a press conference on Tuesday.

The bipartisan group of lawmakers � including Manchin, Senators Mark Warner (D., Virg.), Bill Cassidy (R., La.), Susan Collins (R., Me.), Mitt Romney (R., Utah) and several others � say their plan aims to find common ground on some of the most pressing issues, and it could be used as a framework for the next stimulus package.

The compromise proposal, which totals $908 billion, includes $160 billion for state, local and tribal governments �a top priority for Democratic lawmakers, which most Republicans opposed � and short-term protections from coronavirus lawsuits, a �red line� for Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that Democrats have rejected. Those two issues alone have caused significant problems throughout negotiations so far. Romney said the temporary protections give states time to put their own protections in place.

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