

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We appreciate your leadership and efforts to protect the health and economic well-being of the American people during the COVID-19 pandemic. We fully support the assistance provided to state and local governments in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. We write to request robust further assistance and flexibility for state and local governments in the next coronavirus relief package.

Our first priority must be to ensure the State and Local Coronavirus Relief Fund included in the CARES Act meets urgent needs. The CARES Act provided \$150 billion to the Fund, a welcome down payment on the emergency needs of state and local governments. It is clear, however, that states and local governments need more. We request that the Coronavirus Relief Fund receive significant additional funding in future coronavirus relief legislation, including a minimum of an additional \$150 billion in the forthcoming relief package.

Additionally, we have heard concerns from governors, state representatives, mayors, local county officials, and government budget departments that the current \$150 billion in the Fund cannot be used to compensate for revenue lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is precisely due to the implementation of federal guidance on social distancing, quarantine, and isolation that state and local government revenue projections are contracting at an alarming rate. Social distancing policies around the country are meant to limit the spread of COVID-19 and are needed to protect vulnerable populations and avoid overwhelming hospitals. We support these and other public health measures that effectively stem the spread of COVID-19 and do not want federal funding guidelines to disincentivize the continued implementation of necessary efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal government cannot tie the hands of our intergovernmental partners during this crisis. While we support broad guidance from the federal government on proper use of Fund resources, we request a statutory fix to allow explicitly for replacement of lost revenue to be included as an approved use of the Fund. This clarification would allay the concerns of governors, mayors, and counties across the country and allow them to focus on fighting this pandemic on the front lines.

These priorities are by no means a comprehensive list of the urgent needs of state and local governments. For example, it is clear the federal government must do more to coordinate the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment and COVID-19 testing. We also urge consideration of additional increases to Federal Medical Assistance Percentages for

Medicaid funding; increases in the federal cost share of response and recovery efforts carried out by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and strengthening of the municipal finance market, similar to actions taken in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis with Build America Bonds.

We believe these emergency measures will help our state and local partners with their life-saving efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We respectfully request that these proposals be given every possible consideration for inclusion in the next coronavirus relief package.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

David Trone
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress