



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

Together with the undersigned mayors and county officials in the 6th Congressional District of Illinois, we urge you to provide desperately needed funding for local governments, regardless of population size, in the next emergency coronavirus package.

Federal spending programs have long disadvantaged high-population states like Illinois. Those biases result from the structure of the Senate, but were magnified in the recent CARES Act; Citizens in states with populations above 3.5 million received, on average just \$390 per capita, while citizens of less populous states received as much as \$2100 per person – over five times larger. Many of us representing constituents at all levels in states with populations over 3.5 million are finding this discrepancy very hard to justify. Our local governments should *at least* receive proportionately the same level of relief. Moreover, by ensuring we have the resources to move quickly and stop future outbreaks, we will make all parts of the country safer.

We are also concerned about our ability to continue providing critical services to our community without targeted stabilization funding. Our counties and towns have been asked to rapidly activate and expand emergency services, transition to telework to ensure continuity, pay overtime and hazard compensation to first responders, pay for personal protective equipment, and incur many other unexpected costs in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. As local leaders we are on the front lines of this crisis, providing food and shelter, taking care of seniors and other vulnerable populations, operating emergency response centers, and other essential municipal and county functions.

Not only have municipalities and counties incurred greater expenses, but the social distancing required to contain the spread and the need to comply with Illinois' stay-at-home order has also contributed, and will continue to contribute, to a precipitous decline in municipal revenue streams, including but not limited to sales taxes, property taxes, court fees, parking fees, energy tax receipts, UCC fees, and hotel occupancy fees. Our local leaders do not want to be forced to



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slash essential services, such as police and fire departments, nor can we raise taxes on already overburdened residents. We cannot rely on our state government, which is facing similar revenue shortfalls and increased expenses, to pass along adequate federal relief funds to municipal and county governments. For instance, DuPage County, which is in the heart of our district, is expected to lose between \$500,000 to \$1.5M in revenue each week. Only the federal government has the capacity to help states and local governments of all sizes on an equitable basis.

At a time when we are all in this together, it is important that emergency aid flow equally to all citizens no matter where they live. An equal per capita distribution of funds is the only way to ensure that all states and territories have an equal fighting chance at rebuilding after this pandemic. As leaders of the “People’s House”, where citizens are equally represented no matter what state they live in, we urge you to insist on a truly fair, equal per-capita distribution of funds to all states, territories, and districts. We further urge you that this correction be retroactive, and that the fundamental principle of equal per-capita distribution of relief be applied to all programs in this and future coronavirus response packages.

Attached for your consideration are some individual testimonies from Mayors and County Board Chairs from Illinois’ 6th Congressional District, detailing the unique burdens that managing a responsible COVID-19 response has placed on their budgets. We thank you for your attention, and as you begin work on the fourth COVID-19 stimulus and recovery package, we urge you to ensure an equitable and equal per-capita distribution of funds to states so that all Americans can benefit equally no matter where they live.

Sincerely,

Sean Casten

Member of Congress

6th Congressional District of Illinois

Sandy Hart
Lake County Board Chair

Jack D. Franks
McHenry County Board Chair

John Schmitt
Village President, Algonquin

Aaron Shepley
Mayor, Crystal Lake

Karen Darch
Village President, Barrington

Joseph A. Marchese
Mayor, Darien



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Dale Sands
Village President, Deer Park

Bob Barnett
Mayor, Downers Grove

Lael Miller
Village President, East Dundee

David Kaptain
Mayor, Elgin

Robert Nunamaker
Village President, Fox River Grove

Diane McGinley
Village President, Glen Ellyn

Dominick DiMaggio
Mayor, Hawthorn Woods

Rodney Craig
Village President, Hanover Park

Thomas Cauley
Village President, Hinsdale

William McLeod
Mayor, Hoffman Estates

John A. "Jack" Tautoles
Mayor, Inverness

Nandia Black
Village President, Kildeer

Kevin Richardson
Village President, Lake Barrington

Russ Ruzanski
Village President, Lake in the Hills

Thomas Poynton
Mayor, Lake Zurich

Phil Stephan
Village President, Lakewood

Keith Giagnorio
Village President, Lombard

Bill Jacob
Village President, Long Grove

Steve Chirico
Mayor, Naperville

Gopal Lalmalani
Village President, Oak Brook

Paul Esposito
Acting Mayor, Oakbrook Terrace

Jim Schwantz
Mayor, Palatine

Shannon Yeaton
Village President, Port Barrington

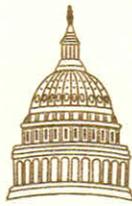
Stephen Pickett
Village President, Sleepy Hollow

Steve Ward
Village President, South Elgin

Raymond Rogina
Mayor, St. Charles

David Parro
Village President, Tower Lakes

David Brummel
Mayor, Warrenville



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Eileen Phipps
Village President, Wayne

Ruben Pineda
Mayor, West Chicago

Christopher Nelson
Village President, West Dundee

Ron Gunter
Mayor, Westmont

Philip Suess
Mayor, Wheaton

Frank Trilla
Mayor, Willowbrook

Erik Spande
Mayor, Winfield