

Presiding Officers Of The United States Of America

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
US House of Representatives
H-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell and Speaker Pelosi:

There are moments in our nation's history that are unexpected and out of our control, and this global pandemic is one such moment. Each of us as state leaders are experiencing this challenge in our own unique ways, but the one commonality for us all is the dire impact on our state and local economies. That is why we are coming together to respectfully ask that as you determine the next legislative stimulus package you include additional, flexible funding for state and local governments to account for anticipated public budget shortfalls. State and local governments of all sizes have been on the forefront to help fight and prevent the spread of COVID-19, and we do not want to further the economic impact on our citizens by reducing essential services.

Our revenues from industry and tax have decreased drastically while our costs have skyrocketed. Every state and territory in our union has been asked to meet the challenge of ensuring we have enough hospital beds and equipment, that our first responders are properly outfitted and prepared, as well as the now very high cost of unemployment insurance and benefits. Many of our states went from having budget surpluses to the potential loss of billions in state revenue.

As presiding officers of our country's state legislatures, we understand the challenges of moving forward large, bipartisan legislation. The money provided in The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act was critical to our ability to meet the immediate needs of our citizens. Moving forward we must not allow a gap in that funding when our economies and our people are so vulnerable. In a recent survey conducted by the National League of Cities and the Conference of Mayors, local leaders believe that they "will be forced to cut critical public services and reduce their workforces: nearly a third anticipate furloughing employees; a quarter anticipate lay-offs; more than half anticipate funding cuts for police and more than one-third expect cuts for firefighters and EMTs."¹ The scale of unemployment and lost revenues spans the entire country, regardless of ideological allegiances or geographic alignment.

¹ *The Economy and Cities: What Local Leaders are Seeing*. A National League of Cities and United States Conference of Mayors Survey.

The Federal Government remains the backstop to this economic slide and can prevent further catastrophic damage. We encourage Congressional leaders to work with the Trump Administration to ensure that our state and local governments have the resources required to continue functioning despite the scope of the economic crisis we face.

Sincerely,



Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
Maryland



Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
Maryland



Cathy Giessel
Senate President
Alaska



KC Becker
Speaker of the House
Colorado



Martin M. Looney
Senate President Pro Tem
Connecticut



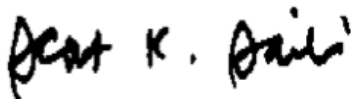
David McBride
President Pro Tempore
Delaware



Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Speaker
35th Guam Legislature




Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Hawaii



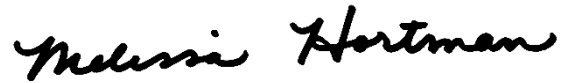
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Speaker of the House
Hawaii



Don Harmon
Senate President
Illinois



Troy D. Jackson
Senate President
Maine



Melissa Hortman
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Minnesota



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New Mexico



Andrea Stewart-Cousins
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New York



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Drew A. Perkins
Senate President
Wyoming



Steve Harshman
Speaker of the House
Wyoming

//CC: Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer
House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy