

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Leader McConnell and Secretary Mnuchin:

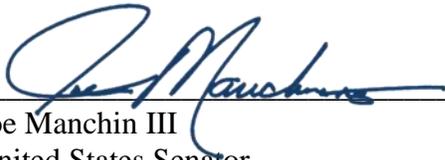
On behalf of our state, local, and tribal governments, it is essential that you include robust, dedicated, and flexible funding to all units of state and local government in the next interim emergency coronavirus package to support their ongoing efforts in the fight against this pandemic. Not only are these public servants on the front line of the immediate response effort, they are also major employers navigating unprecedented declines in revenue just as the need for their services hits an all-time high. We can and we must work together to get this essential funding to our local partners as quickly as possible.

While the Coronavirus Relief Fund authorized in the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) was an important first step, there is no guarantee that any of that funding will reach the millions of Americans who live in communities with fewer than 500,000 residents. The U.S. Department of the Treasury has made it clear that no unit of local government representing fewer than 500,000 residents is eligible to apply for direct funding. The next interim emergency coronavirus package must include dedicated funding for the cities, counties, tribes, and other local governments that serve these communities.

The intent of the legislative language authorizing the Coronavirus Relief Fund was to provide flexible funding to state and local jurisdictions as they respond to an unfolding national health and economic crisis. Flexibility is critical as federal response guidelines change almost daily. Our local partners have to constantly adjust and adapt to maintain a consistent response while grappling with dramatically reduced state and local revenues that are the direct result of COVID-19's effects on our economy. While we remain hopeful that the U.S. Department of the Treasury will issue implementation guidance for the Coronavirus Relief Fund that is consistent with the aforementioned Congressional intent, we also know that our state, local, and tribal partners need certainty now that they can use all current and future federal funds to cover reductions in revenues resulting from the public health emergency and faltering COVID-19 economy.

Our local partners, unlike the federal government, have a legal requirement to balance their budget. They do not have the luxury of carrying debt over year after year. We stand with our country's governors, mayors, county officials, and tribal leaders in asking you to put politics aside and support our local partners. They cannot afford to wait any longer.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



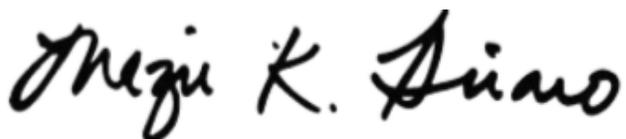
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich

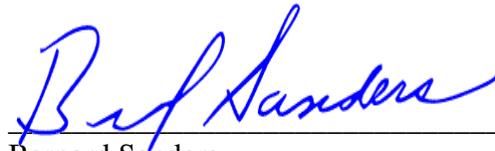
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

Mark R Warner

Mark Warner
United States Senator

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Jack Reed

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator