



April 28, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, District of Columbia 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you as a bipartisan group of Pennsylvania county officials who are in serious need of immediate financial assistance. Across our great Commonwealth, counties and local governments are suffering record revenue losses. Statewide, Pennsylvania is projecting a \$4.5 to \$5 billion budget deficit. That deficit will seriously inhibit efforts to support workers and businesses as we move past the COVID-19 pandemic and attempt to rebuild our economies. We are seeking both increased flexibility in existing state funding from the CARES Act, and additional legislation, which would provide for additional funding for our Pennsylvania counties.

Federal assistance is necessary to ensure that when this pandemic ends, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is able to get back on its feet. We are extremely appreciative of the funding provided by the CARES Act as it has gone a long way to assist struggling businesses and jurisdictions. Unfortunately, the legislation did not include funding to offset drastic state, county, and local revenue shortfalls. These shortfalls are anticipated to continue throughout the duration of the health crisis, and will have devastating effects on our annual revenues. To stabilize these budgets and to ensure that our counties have the resources to battle the virus, we seek flexibility in the use of these Relief Fund dollars to cover unanticipated expenditures related to the direct public health response, to human services and to any other essential service required to respond to the needs of our citizens.

Additionally, we seek direct fiscal assistance through further funding from new legislation. Existing funding will not cover the extraordinary shortfalls our jurisdictions are facing. It is essential that the federal government provide fiscal support for those of us responding directly to this unprecedented health and economic crisis.

It is also imperative that future funding be tied to population rather than CDBG funding. CDBG funding that goes to Pennsylvania counties must be used to benefit the non-entitlement communities in that county. Counties cannot use those funds for their own needs. Counties are

on the front line of this fight and have significant expenses and revenue loss that will put us in precarious positions as the pandemic continues.

The COVID-19 crisis is devastating our communities. Your decisive and rapid response is needed to ensure our counties are able to continue to provide the assistance needed across Pennsylvania and the entire nation. Because counties are often one of the largest employers locally and provide essential public health, public safety and economic recovery support for unemployed individuals as well as local businesses and non profits, this would undoubtedly be a win-win investment.

Sincerely,

Cc: United States Senator Bob Casey  
United States Senator Pat Toomey  
United States Representative Mike Kelly