

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2020

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We are grateful for your tireless work to address the needs of all Americans struggling during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for your understanding of the tremendous burdens that have been borne by localities as they work to respond to this crisis and keep their populations safe. However, we are concerned that the COVID-19 relief packages considered thus far have not provided direct funding to stabilize smaller counties, cities, and towns—specifically, those with populations under 500,000. As such, we urge you to include direct stabilization funding to such localities in the next COVID-19 response bill, or to lower the threshold for direct funding through the Coronavirus Relief Fund to localities with smaller populations.

Many of us represent districts containing no or few localities with populations above 500,000. Like their larger neighbors, though, these smaller counties, cities, and towns have faced enormous costs while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. These costs include deploying timely public service announcements to keep Americans informed, rapidly activating emergency operations, readying employees for telework to keep services running, and more. This work is essential to keeping our constituents safe and mitigating the spread of the coronavirus as effectively as possible.

We fear that, without targeted stabilization funding, smaller localities will be unable to continue providing these critical services to our constituents at the rate they are currently.

We applaud you for including a \$200 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund as part of H.R. 6379, the Take Responsibility for Workers and Families Act—\$50 billion more than the Senate package provides. However, we are concerned that, in both the House and Senate bills, localities with populations under 500,000 cannot receive stabilization funds directly. As you work to craft the next package to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge you to include direct stabilization funding to localities with populations under 500,000, or to lower the threshold for direct funding through the Coronavirus Relief Fund. There's precedent for a lower threshold. Currently, localities with populations of at least 50,000 are eligible to receive funding through the Community Development Block Grant program. We believe this funding will allow smaller counties, cities and towns in our districts to continue the tremendous work they are doing to protect our constituents during this difficult time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We stand ready to work with you as we continue to provide much-needed relief for the American people.

Sincerely,



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

TJ Cox
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
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Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
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Rosa L. DeLauro
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Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Val Butler Demings
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Theodore E. Deutch
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Debbie Dingell
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Mike Doyle
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Eliot L. Engel
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Veronica Escobar
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Abby Finkenauer
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Bill Foster
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Josh Gottheimer
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Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

Josh Harder
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson,
Jr.
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
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Brenda L. Lawrence
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Al Lawson
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
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Susie Lee
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Mike Levin
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Dave Loebsack
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Alan Lowenthal
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Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
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James P. McGovern
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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
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Dean Phillips
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Chellie Pingree
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Mark Pocan
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Ayanna Pressley
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Jamie Raskin
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Tom Reed
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Kathleen M. Rice
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Cedric L. Richmond
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Harley Rouda
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Tim Ryan
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Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
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Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider
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Kurt Schrader
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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David Scott
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Donna Shalala
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill
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Albio Sires
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Elissa Slotkin
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Darren Soto
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Abigail D. Spanberger
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Jackie Speier
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Haley M. Stevens
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Thomas R. Suozzi
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Mark Takano
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Mike Thompson
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Rashida Tlaib
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Paul D. Tonko
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Norma J. Torres
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Xochitl Torres Small
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Lori Trahan
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David Trone
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Filemon Vela
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Debbie Wasserman
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Peter Welch
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Susan Wild
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Frederica S. Wilson
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