



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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CEO and Executive Director  
TOM COCHRAN

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
The United States House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

## **RE: Population Cutoff Change Needed for "Temporary Fiscal Relief for States and Localities"**

America's mayors are singularly focused on doing everything they can to help save lives and protect our nation's economy as we address the COVID-19 pandemic.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in securing passage of two critically needed supplemental appropriations packages.

As you know, over 300 mayors signed a letter that was sent to every member of the House of Representatives and the Senate requesting that \$250 billion in direct assistance for cities be included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> supplemental package. This bipartisan letter was signed by mayors from cities of all sizes and regions of the nation.

We were very pleased to see that the 3<sup>rd</sup> supplemental package put forward in the House of Representatives would appropriate \$200 billion for "Temporary Fiscal Relief for States and Cities." This funding is desperately needed as cities work to save lives and shore up the local economies that drive our nation. However, we are greatly concerned that under this proposal, the cutoff for local governments to receive direct assistance is set at a population of 500,000 or more. The Conference has steadfastly advocated that Congress use the CDBG allocation structure which directly provides funds to every city over 50,000 in population. We urge that this structure be used for the new stabilization program. At a time when every city is working on the front lines to address the COVID-19 crisis, our organization strongly recommends that the House bill be adjusted to use the CDBG allocation structure.

Please have your staff contact me directly at 202-744-9110 or my Chief of Staff Ed Somers at 202-744-9223 to discuss this request.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director

Cc: Julius West