

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker of the House
U.S. Capitol H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Office of the Senate Majority Leader
S-230 United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell:

Thank you for your leadership as we continue to craft a national response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been one of the hardest hit and most impacted states in the nation. As you work to finalize the next relief package, we write to join with our New York and New Jersey colleagues, to request that a separate fund of at least \$40 billion be created in emergency COVID-19 relief package and it be allocated among the States based upon their share of the national infection rate according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracking data.

This proposal is intended to be independent of other proposed state and local stabilization funds using traditional population-based formulas. Assistance to the most impacted states is crucial. Currently, Pennsylvania has 57,991 cases of COVID-19. Due to the pandemic, the state is experiencing plummeting revenues and an increased demand for public assistance.

Pennsylvania's Independent Fiscal Office projects up to a \$4 billion budget shortfall over the current year. The current and historical funding formulas used by the federal government are insufficient in the face of the impacts states like Pennsylvania are facing in this global epidemic. Our states need substantial emergency funding in order to fill budgetary holes for critical services during this crisis. Without adequate, and proportional assistance, we fear that our states will be forced to cut services, such as health care, education, nutrition, first responders, free and fair elections, and transportation.

Therefore, we request at least \$40 billion dollars of federal aid be allocated among the States based on their share of the national infection rate according to CDC tracking data. Our approach provides resources in a fair manner that properly accounts for not only population, but also the number of positive COVID-19 cases and the impact of the virus on a government's revenues and bottom line.

Thank you for your attention to this request to stabilize state governments most impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Sincerely,



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress