

## Direct Aid to Local Governments Talking Points 2.15 – 2.21

- Relief and vaccine distribution cannot come quickly enough for America's cities and towns. Congress cannot waiver on the relief package now - this is what America needs.
- Urgent requests for help by local governments to maintain existing operations and services in addition to emergency activities have gone unanswered.
- Cities and towns have stepped up during COVID to respond, and we are now facing an estimated \$90B revenue shortfall dealing with the real problems facing Americans right now – rent is due, the water needs to stay on, and our businesses need support.
- The relief package was carefully negotiated in the House using the CDBG formula, <u>appropriate guardrails</u>, and a <u>fair allocation of only \$65B for cities</u> that doesn't leave parts of America behind.
- There's also <u>transportation</u>, <u>housing</u>, <u>and FEMA recovery</u> in this package that are essential for communities that need to stabilize.
- Local governments are not seeking a bailout, but we do need a lifeline to avoid options of last resort to balance our budgets - as required by law.
- The most efficient way to help local governments maintain operations and services, while also carrying out emergency measures, is to permit the use of federal aid for addressing revenue shortfalls.
- We cannot let perfect (or politics) be the enemy of the good Congress can do next week. We need you to step up with us and pass this bill. Do not waiver.