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February 11, 2021

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney,  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Comer,  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Ranking Member Comer:

We write today to offer our strong support of the budget reconciliation language providing \$350 billion in flexible aid for our states, cities, counties, tribes, and territories. We thank you for your support in championing legislation for State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds, which would provide relief to America's state and local governments on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. This bill recognizes the damage this crisis has done to local government budgets and employment, and our role in mitigating the public health and economic impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including the essential frontline services we provide.

America's 19,000 cities, towns, and villages have seen their revenues plummet as a result of the pandemic while their expenses have risen sharply to fight the virus, help millions of people who lost their jobs, and support the local businesses that are struggling to keep open. Our research shows that municipal governments alone are still facing a \$90 billion shortfall for one-year revenues. This figure is only for municipalities and does not include any of the losses facing county, state, tribal, or territorial governments. This figure also does not reflect losses over multiple years. The \$65 billion for municipal governments in this legislation will reach every city, town, and village in every Congressional district. The difference between municipalities \$90 billion shortfall and the \$65 billion provided under this bill means there is little chance for aid to be allocated above any localities level of need.

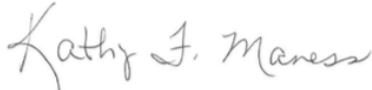
As their average revenue collection drops by 21 percent, municipalities of all sizes, and especially those of small to medium sized cities and towns, have been forced to freeze hiring, lay-off, or furlough local government employees and cut back on essential services to their residents. Municipalities are also delaying or canceling vital infrastructure projects to meet their balanced-budget obligations.

For local elected officials, this pandemic and the resulting economic crisis is not a partisan issue. In municipalities across this country, local officials are working desperately to get residents vaccinated, healthy, and back to work. Local government employees are truly on the frontlines, enforcing measures that protect residents from catching and spreading COVID-19. Local community and economic development departments are stabilizing households and small businesses harmed by losses from COVID-19. Local elected officials are making painful budget cuts to preserve essential day-to-day operations that sustain cities as economic engines and places of opportunity, while residents are relying more than ever on safety net programs that local governments are responsible for putting into action.

However, the dire reality is, the loss of more than 1.3 million front-line public service workers hurts our local government's ability to quickly get shots in arms, prevent our children from falling behind, and help save businesses by delivering essential services like sanitation, clean water and safe roads.

We appreciate the thoughtful work of your committee to ensure that aid to our states, cities, counties, tribes, and territories will be distributed as fairly and equitable as possible, so communities of all sizes can receive the help they need. The National League of Cities endorses this legislation and urges every Member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee to support its passage and swift enactment.

Sincerely,



Kathy Maness  
NLC President  
Councilmember, Lexington, South Carolina



Vince Williams  
NLC First Vice President  
Mayor, Union City, Georgia



Victoria Woodards  
NLC Second Vice President  
Mayor, Tacoma, Washington



Joe Buscaino  
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