

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

Thank you for your work to negotiate and pass coronavirus relief legislation necessary to combat against the unprecedented health crisis we face as a nation today. While these relief packages have provided great assistance to keep Americans employed and small businesses operating, more needs to be done. We must provide funding to state and local governments so that cops, firefighters, healthcare workers and all first responders can continue to do their jobs uninhibited to keep the rest of us safe.

Limiting the spread of coronavirus has required our local governments to put in place social distancing measures and cancel large gatherings to limit physical interaction. One of the many consequences has been the drastic reduction of tax revenue, severely impacting New York's revenue stream. Though these measures were necessary, it has caused significant economic damage to both businesses and local governments. State and local governments are typically required to balance their budget. This is forcing them to propose massive cuts to their budgets for education, law enforcement, transportation and other services. This will cost thousands of teachers, healthcare workers and first responders their jobs.

While the CARES Act included \$150 billion to support state budgets, many municipalities were left without direct assistance. Further, it has become clear that the funds already provided are not close to what is enough to combat against the coronavirus and the significant loss of revenue that has already been dealt to state and local governments. In delivering assistance to local municipalities, we must also ensure maintenance of effort from the state is required. Federal aid to localities must be in addition to state aid, not in lieu of it. We urge you to bring legislation to the floor of the Senate without further delay to provide the necessary funding urgently needed for state and local governments. Too much is at stake to do otherwise.

Sincerely,



PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



LEE ZELDIN
Member of Congress



ELISE STEFANIK
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



TOM REED
Member of Congress