



October 15, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-222, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

As the federal government continues to contemplate when and how to provide additional relief to address the COVID-19 pandemic, we write to express our appreciation of the federal assistance provided to date, but also to underscore our concern that more is needed on the frontline to support our response to this unprecedented crisis. The coronavirus is more than a public health emergency, it is also a continuing economic crisis for the residents and businesses in our states. We implore you to put differences aside and agree to another, much-needed COVID-19 relief bill.

Earlier this year, in an effort to do everything possible to protect the people of our states and to slow the spread of COVID-19, we committed to work together on reopening our economies at a regional level. The coronavirus knows no state lines and prioritizing the health of our workers and residents is critical. Yet, as we continue our efforts to contain the virus and mitigate its economic fallout, we confront both declining state budget revenue and the looming cutoff of the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) dollars that have been critical to our states' pandemic response plans and economic relief programs.

We know you are well aware of the dire economic straits facing many Americans, including those who live in our states. With unemployment continuing to pose significant challenges for workers and their families and the pandemic impacting both expenses and revenues in industries from manufacturing and food distribution to restaurants and retail, it is clear that the scale of need exceeds what states alone can address. Our residents urgently need federal action on additional economic stimulus measures.

Now and in the coming fiscal year, state and local governments continue to face plummeting revenues due to reduced business activity and the skyrocketing unemployment that has followed. Against this stark reality, the impending cutoff of Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars creates a dangerous fiscal cliff for all of our states. Absent substantial and flexible federal aid, we are experiencing revenue shortfalls that will require difficult budgetary choices and that will have painful impacts on the communities, workers, and families in our states. It is critically important that states be permitted to spend both any new state stabilization funds and the \$150 billion in CRF dollars previously allocated in the CARES Act well into 2021, and that we be granted the flexibility to direct those funds where they are needed most. We therefore ask that you take action this month to provide additional, substantial fiscal relief to states.

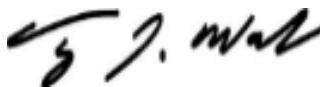
Finally, we would be remiss if we did not specifically point to the need for additional investment in testing, personal protective equipment, and contact tracing. Federal resources have been critical to our states' efforts to provide widespread access to COVID-19 tests, promptly trace contacts with positive individuals, provide personal protective equipment, and support our health care partners. Without continued federal investment, these programs face imminent end-of-year reductions or even closures.

We urge you to take immediate action on additional stimulus for our residents, industries, and state and local governments. Investment in these efforts will not only allow us to dampen the economic fallout of this crisis in our states and slow a potential recession in the coming years, but ultimately, will also allow our residents to return to the new normal once this crisis has passed.

Sincerely,



Governor Gretchen Whitmer
State of Michigan



Governor Tim Walz
State of Minnesota



Governor Tony Evers
State of Wisconsin

cc: State of Michigan Congressional Delegation
State of Minnesota Congressional Delegation
State of Wisconsin Congressional Delegation