

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 10, 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 State Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell,

The country is in the midst of a once a century public health crisis and New York and New Jersey are at the epicenter of the outbreak. We request that a separate fund of at least \$40 billion fund be created in the interim 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 on April 10, 2020. This \$40 billion fund would be independent of other proposed state and local stabilization funds using traditional population-based formulas. This proposed formula for disbursing the \$40 billion fund will provide assistance to the most impacted states.

We need to provide resources to our states proportionate to the burden they bear. Currently, New York and New Jersey have a combined number of 208,100 cases of COVID 19, or 45% of all COVID-19 cases in the country.<sup>1</sup> As of April 10th, our states have more confirmed cases than the next 18 highest states combined. New York and New Jersey are not alone in the suffering and costs of responding to the pandemic, but federal aid has not been allocated proportionately to the impact of the virus.

The current and historical funding formulas used by the federal government are insufficient in the face of this global epidemic. New York and New Jersey 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.

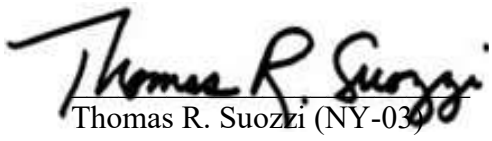
In addition, this pandemic has negatively impacted the finances of our counties, cities, towns and villages. While this \$40 billion fund is specific to states, local governments must be included in other nationwide solutions. Economically, the business shut down has resulted in reduced sales tax revenues, permit fees, and other local levies. It is also likely that many unemployed landowners will be unable to pay their property taxes, adding even more stress to local budgets. Our local governments have also felt the added financial strain of responding directly to COVID-19 as they struggle to meet the needs of the hospitals, police, EMTs and other emergency services. This has resulted in increased expenses for our local governments and we therefore support a separate stabilization fund to address their fiscal needs.

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<sup>1</sup> CDC tracking data for national and state: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html#2019coronavirus-summary>

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 the COVID-19 outbreak.

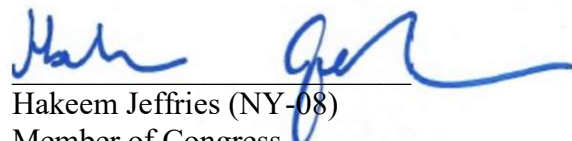
Sincerely,




Thomas R. Suozzi (NY-03)  
Member of Congress




Peter T. King (NY-02)  
Member of Congress




Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08)  
Member of Congress



Tom Reed (NY-23)  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05)  
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith (NJ-04)  
Member of Congress



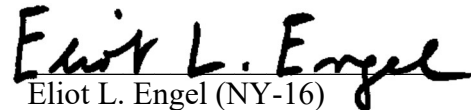
Anthony Brindisi (NY-22)  
Member of Congress



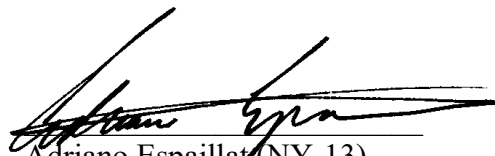
Yvette D. Clarke (NY-09)  
Member of Congress



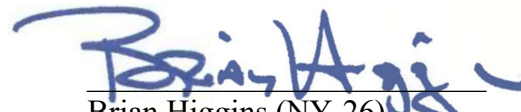
Antonio Delgado (NY-19)  
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel (NY-16)  
Member of Congress



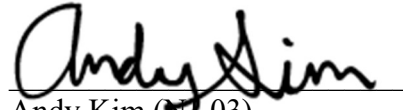
Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins (NY-26)  
Member of Congress



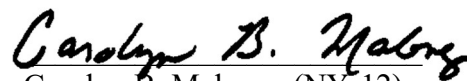
John Katko (NY-24)  
Member of Congress



Andy Kim (NY-03)  
Member of Congress



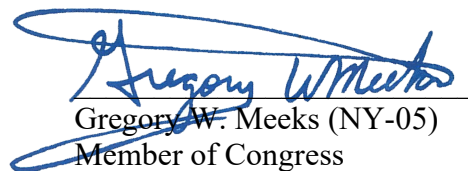
Tom Malinowski (NJ-07)  
Member of Congress



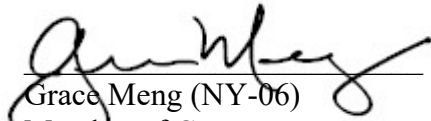
Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12)  
Member of Congress



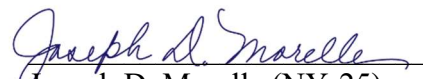
Sean Patrick Maloney (NY-18)  
Member of Congress



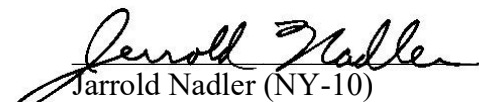
Gregory W. Meeks (NY-05)  
Member of Congress




Grace Meng (NY-06)  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle (NY-25)  
Member of Congress




Jarrold Nadler (NY-10)  
Member of Congress



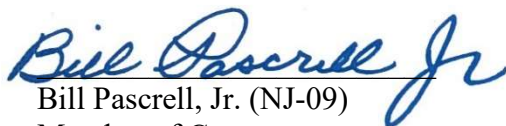
Donald Norcross (NJ-01)  
Member of Congress




Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez (NY-14)  
Member of Congress




Frank Pallone Jr. (NJ-06)  
Member of Congress



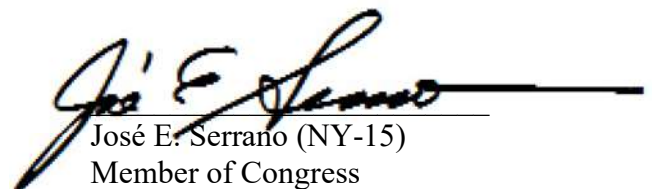
Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-09)  
Member of Congress



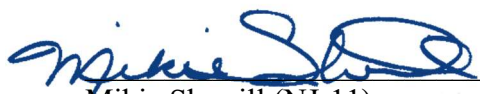
Donald Payne, Jr. (NJ-10)  
Member of Congress



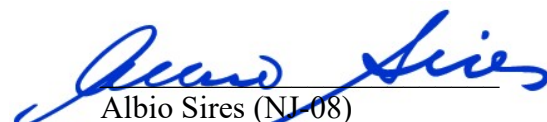
Kathleen M. Rice (NY-04)  
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano (NY-15)  
Member of Congress



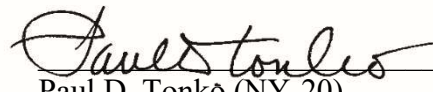
Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11)  
Member of Congress



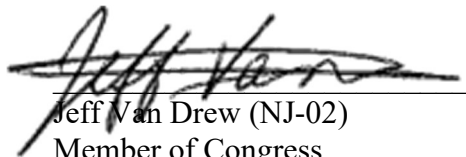
Albio Sires (NJ-08)  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik (NY-21)  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko (NY-20)  
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew (NJ-02)  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez (NY-07)  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12)  
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin (NY-01)  
Member of Congress

cc: Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, Chairwoman Lowey and Chairman Shelby