

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Thank you for your work in negotiating the CARES Act and for including much-needed assistance to state and local governments. Unfortunately, the \$3.4 billion allocated to New Jersey in the Coronavirus Relief Fund is inadequate for the tremendous financial challenges facing our state. For future relief packages, we urge you to include additional funding for state and local governments that accurately reflects states' respective populations and the severity of each state's COVID-19 outbreak.

The formula used to distribute Coronavirus Relief Fund money in the CARES Act short-changed New Jersey in two ways. First, by setting a minimum payment of \$1.25 billion for each state: more populous states like New Jersey were left with smaller payments of only \$390 per person while smaller states with fewer cases received as much as \$2,100 per person.

Second, the CARES Act failed to consider the rates of coronavirus infections in each state, leaving New Jersey without the assistance it needs to address the outbreak here. While New Jersey has the second highest number and rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases, it received the second lowest amount of funding per case of COVID-19. We are concerned that New Jersey's resources are being strained to a greater degree than other states.

Therefore, as you work to develop future relief legislation, we urge you to provide significant additional resources directly to state and local governments and to distribute these funds with a formula that is proportionate to each state's population. Without equitable funding that fully reflects our state's population, New Jersey and its counties and municipalities may not have the funding necessary to fully respond to COVID-19 while continuing to provide the vital services on which our constituents rely. Additionally, we reiterate our request that you include at least \$40 billion for states to be distributed based on COVID-19 infection rates as reflected in the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracking data.

We recognize that every state and local community in this country is being impacted by COVID-19 and in need of additional financial relief, but that relief should reflect the disparate burden states with larger populations and higher infection rates are facing. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



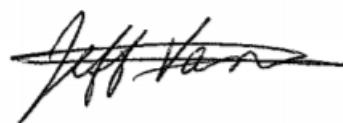
Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress