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. 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.

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 COVID-19 outbreak.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

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