

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We write to request that the next pandemic relief package include direct aid to localities, regardless of the population size of the recipient city or town. This direct aid is imperative to keep critical local services operational and foster economic recovery.

As you know, cities and counties have been at the forefront in responding to the health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local governments are providing testing, emergency rental assistance, small business support, and many other services that are often the first and most accessible resources to which our constituents turn. However, the increased costs associated with pandemic response paired with reduced local revenues have put a strain on the budgets of countless localities.

Helping localities maintain their critical services that support the health, safety, and economic security of our constituents must be a top priority in the House of Representatives. Ultimately, this type of aid supports our communities and the public workers who have been on the frontlines during the pandemic.

We appreciated that the CARES Act recognized these needs by providing state and local aid via the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Unfortunately, cities in our districts did not meet the 500,000 resident population threshold required to access direct aid under the legislation. In fact, no city in Orange County, California, met the population threshold. As a result, these cities did not receive the level of aid they needed. Our cities faced equal – and in some cases, greater – pandemic response challenges than larger cities, and they continue to face these challenges today. That fact must be accounted for in local aid policies included in the next pandemic relief package.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with you to bring critical relief to those we represent.

Sincerely,



MIKE LEVIN  
Member of Congress



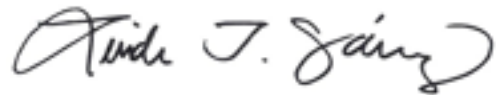
J. LUIS CORREA  
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL  
Member of Congress



KATIE PORTER  
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LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ  
Member of Congress



MICHELLE STEEL  
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