

On behalf of the 345 municipalities in Tennessee, the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) appreciates your continuing to address the needs of all who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for your understanding of the tremendous burdens that have been borne by localities as they respond to this crisis and keep their citizens safe.

As you are aware, the majority of America's local governments are not eligible for direct relief under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES Act) due to the 500,000 population threshold. There are several efforts underway to address this issue.

Last week, Representatives Neguse (CO-2), Levin (MI-9), Luján (NM-3) and Malinowski (NJ-7) introduced the Coronavirus Community Relief Act (H.R. 6467), a bill to provide \$250 billion in funding to all local governments with fewer than 500,000 residents. We are asking you to **support H.R. 6467**. We fear that, without targeted stabilization funding, smaller localities will be unable to continue providing critical services to our constituents at a sufficient level.

Three hundred forty-three (343) of our three hundred forty-five (345) cities and towns have populations below 500,000 and do not qualify for Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to local governments under the CARES Act. These smaller municipalities have faced enormous costs while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. These costs include lost revenue due to the statewide closure of non-essential businesses and stay-at-home orders, rapidly activating emergency operations, and readying employees for telework to keep services running. This work is essential to keeping communities safe and to mitigating the spread of the coronavirus as effectively as possible.

As Congress examines additional assistance packages, please consider the needs of your Tennessee's cities and towns.

Thank you again for your leadership during this difficult time. If my office can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mahery

TML Executive Director