

TML Letter to Sens. Blackburn and Alexander Regarding COVID-19 Amended Package

As the Senate currently debates the amended version of the third stimulus package regarding COVID-19, the Tennessee Municipal League strongly urges adoption of the following recommendations that will empower the cities and towns in Tennessee to respond to this public and economic crisis:

- Fix the Coronavirus Relief Fund. The bill currently authorizes \$150 billion in direct federal aid for state governments, and local governments over 500,000 in population.
- Fix Unfunded Mandates. The bill does not fix an unfunded mandate enacted under H.R. 6201 that prevents governments from receiving tax credits to offset new employer requirements for paid sick leave and paid emergency leave.
- Fix the Municipal Bond Market. Municipal bonds are a key source of funding for local governments. Congress must enact provisions protecting the functioning and liquidity of the municipal bond market so that local governments can gain access to the funding they urgently need to provide crucial services during this difficult period.

On behalf of the 345 municipalities in TN, I thank you in advance for your consideration of the above listed items that we feel should be included in the amended legislation. If my office can be of any assistance now or moving forward, do not hesitate to contact me.

Margaret Mahery, Executive Director
Tennessee Municipal League