

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We are grateful for your tireless efforts to respond to the damaging effects of the COVID-19 outbreak. Thanks to your guidance and our courageous frontline healthcare workers, hundreds of thousands of infected Americans have recovered and the mortality predictions relating to the virus have dramatically dropped.

These great successes have not relieved the concerns we have for the future of our government. Traumatic national events such as this outbreak often lead to policies that grow the size and scope of government. Government leaders and all those affected naturally look for any sort of relief. But too often, our responses jeopardize the principles of federalism our nation was founded upon and we hold so dear.

The CARES Act, which was signed into law just over a month ago, appropriated \$150 billion for state, local, and tribal governments. These funds are not loans that will be paid back. They are funds taken out of the pockets of struggling Americans to help cover the economic losses state and local governments are enduring from shutting down their economies. Our views may vary on the appropriateness of that initial allocation, but we stand united in opposing the appropriation of additional funds.

States like New York, Illinois, and California have been vocal in their demands for funding to bail out their pension systems, which were failing long before the COVID-19 outbreak, and other programs that aren't related to this crisis. While these states in particular prove the negative impacts of poor budgeting, bloated spending, and high taxes, the federal government should not be further backfilling the budget of any state or local government. Our Founding Fathers never intended for the federal government to be the behemoth it has become. They didn't intend for the government to redistribute the wealth of Americans so that citizens of one state are forced to pay for the poor decisions made in another state. We must begin reversing this devastating trend. State and local governments should be taking responsibility for the decisions they've made, both in the long term and in recent decisions to shut down their economies.

Our structural deficit this year will exceed \$4 trillion. By the end of the fiscal year our debt will exceed the size of our economy. We are on an unsustainable path. It is time to reopen America and restore the balance of power and responsibility. It must begin with state and local leaders.

As conversations related to further relief take place, please do not entrench the bad precedent for the federal government to pay the tab for state and local actions. Before this outbreak, our

economy was thriving due in large part to your efforts. We look forward to working with you to rebuild our economy to its former brilliance.

Sincerely,

Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress

Ken Buck  
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress

Chip Roy  
Member of Congress

Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress

Ben Cline  
Member of Congress

Van Taylor  
Member of Congress

Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress