

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We have deep concerns with taxpayer funds going to bail out multiemployer pension plans. Long before COVID-19, numerous multiemployer pension plans were facing insolvency due to years of mismanagement. We should not use the pandemic to bailout mismanaged government and private multiemployer pension funds.

The American people are looking to the Federal Government for leadership. We have provided temporary relief to small businesses, those who have lost their jobs and our brave healthcare workers. As Congress debates future steps to protect citizens and stop the spread of this deadly virus, we must do everything to keep the trust of our citizens.

Currently, privately run multiemployer pensions have an estimated budget shortfall that exceeds \$630 billion. American taxpayers, many who have been laid off, did not over-promise benefits or make bad financial decisions that ran these plans into the red. They should not have to be on the hook for these large sums of money.


Government run plans are no different; state and local governments across the United States are facing large deficits in funding their pension obligations. This is not a new development; it has been growing for decades, long before the current pandemic. State pensions currently have over \$4 trillion in funding gaps; however, this deficit is not distributed equally among all states. Highly insolvent states have been searching for pension bailouts for years. Many local governments are facing equal or greater liabilities and have over-promised benefits.

The federal government should not bail out private or state and local governments with pension problems. Taxpayers cannot bear the burden for unfunded pensions. We ask that in the next round of COVID-19 legislation, that no funds be used towards pension shortfalls or be allowed to reimburse expenses that have been redirected to cover pension shortfalls.

Sincerely,



Francis Rooney
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress




Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



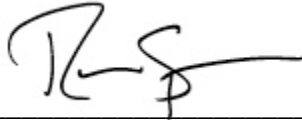
Ron Wright
Member of Congress



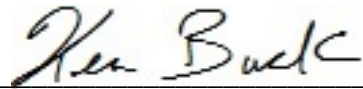
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



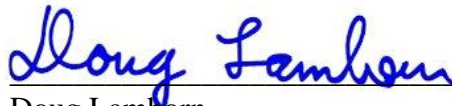
Scott Perry
Member of Congress



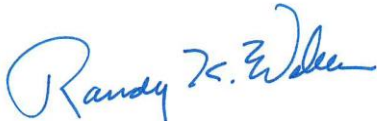
Ross Spano
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress