



July 17, 2020

Members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation
United States Capitol
Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Senators and Members of Congress,

As the COVID-19 pandemic threatens the health and well-being of our nation and the world, North Carolina is doing its part to combat the pandemic, recover, and rebuild. With businesses closing, unemployment spiking, schools trying to reopen, and individuals struggling with mental health challenges and substance misuse, the human and economic consequences of the pandemic are staggering.

This is why we, as members of the North Carolina Council of State, are urging Congress to approve another federal aid package that includes help for states, local governments, businesses and individuals to help us recover and rebuild in the wake of the pandemic.

Your quick action in passing the first federal aid package was critical in helping our state provide timely relief to those whose lives were upended by the pandemic. However, because the impact of COVID-19 will be felt for months to come, we must have the resources to support those who have been impacted and to help our state and communities recover and rebuild. Many of our local governments are financially overburdened and require flexibility to make-up for COVID-19 revenue losses. They need additional resources to provide personal protective equipment for our first responders, healthcare providers, and educators. They also need assistance to address aging water and sewer infrastructure. National estimates are that states will see hundreds of billions of dollars in lost tax revenues over the next two years at the same time their health care expenses will explode due to COVID-19. Local governments will also be hit hard. There have been well more than a million public sector jobs lost to this crisis nationally.

A key part of our recovery is reopening our schools, but reopening has to be done in a way that ensures the safety of our students, teachers, and staff. Too many of our school system budgets were already stressed. Without additional resources, they will not have the ability to purchase the essential cleaning supplies and other materials to create a safe and productive learning environment. Flexible federal aid funding would help ensure schools can address the wide variety of needs around sanitation, personal protective equipment, and nutrition for students. The ability to address these needs would facilitate and catalyze a safe reopening allowing our kids to get back into the classroom as quickly and safely as possible.

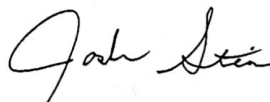
Local governments are facing unprecedented economic challenges and are in dire need of assistance to continue to provide critical health, education, and public safety services. Without federal aid, local municipalities will be forced to make grim decisions such as turning off power or water to those experiencing economic hardship or having to consider additional layoffs of the very people we rely on to keep us safe and educate our children.

The COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented challenge to North Carolina, our nation, and our world. Congress has already taken bold action to address this pandemic, for which we are grateful – but additional resources are needed at this time. We respectfully request that those resources include appropriations to state and local governments. Thank you for consideration.

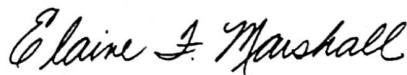
Sincerely,



Roy Cooper
Governor



Josh Stein
Attorney General



Elaine Marshall
Secretary of State



Beth Wood
State Auditor