



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Office of the Mayor
215 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 686-2181
FAX (215) 686-2180

JAMES F. KENNEY
Mayor

April 17, 2020

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

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the residents of Philadelphia, I am writing to strongly urge that the “Interim Supplemental” that is being negotiated with Congress to provide additional funding for SBA Programs also include emergency fiscal assistance for cities.

Cities are the front line of fighting this pandemic as we take unprecedented actions to protect public health and safety. However, at the same time that cities are incurring extraordinary expenditures to respond to the health crisis at hand, cities are also experiencing profound declines in tax revenue from the economic disruption caused by the pandemic. This is particularly devastating to large cities like Philadelphia, which are heavily dependent on income, business, sales, and other taxes that are highly sensitive to the economy.

I respectfully ask that this “Interim Supplemental” proposal to include emergency fiscal assistance to America’s cities. By providing direct, flexible funding that allows cities to replace lost revenue is critically important to ensure that the economies of our communities are best positioned to quickly rebound once the immediate health crisis passes. Without this assistance, cities like Philadelphia will be forced to take drastic steps to balance their budgets, including massive layoffs and drastic cuts to vital services, which will deprive residents of the services they need, exacerbate the damage being done to local economies and lessen the possibility of a speedy economic recovery.

Now, more than ever, we need your Administration to work urgently with Congress to support additional resources for all states and localities so that they may address the budgetary shortfalls that have resulted from the unprecedented COVID-19 public health crisis.

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April 17, 2020

Page 2

The health of our people and our economies are dependent on your actions in the coming days and weeks. I ask that you act decisively and expeditiously during this unprecedented time for our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James F. Kenney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James F. Kenney

Mayor

cc: Senator Bob Casey, United States Senate
Senator Pat Toomey, United States Senate