

KATIE PORTER
45TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INVESTOR PROTECTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
AND CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1117 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5611

DISTRICT OFFICE
2151 MICHELSON DRIVE
SUITE #195
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 668-6600

PORTER.HOUSE.GOV

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

We, the undersigned mayors, city officials, and U.S. Representative of California's 45th Congressional District, implore you to provide desperately needed funding for local governments, regardless of population size, in the next emergency coronavirus package.

Without targeted stabilization funding, our cities will be unable to continue providing critical services to our residents. California's 45th Congressional District contains no cities with a population of or above 500,000 and are therefore ineligible for assistance under existing stimulus programs. Our cities have faced enormous costs while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including rapid activation and expansion of emergency services, transitioning to telework to ensure continuity of municipal services, overtime and hazard compensation for first responders, personal protective equipment, and more.

The coronavirus pandemic has not only increased costs for local governments, but as a result of necessary, life-saving steps to contain the spread, it has also contributed to a precipitous decline in municipal revenue streams, including but not limited to: sales tax, property taxes, court fees, parking fees, fuel taxes, and hotel occupancy fees. The combination of lower revenues and higher expenses is compounded by California's requirement that municipalities balance their budgets. As a result, small cities in California will be forced to slash essential services, including

public schools, police and fire departments, furlough or layoff municipal employees, or raise taxes on already overburdened residents.

We strongly urge you to include in any future Coronavirus relief package H.R. 6467, the Coronavirus Community Relief Act. This bill would provide \$250 billion in stabilization funds to localities with populations lower than 500,000 in order to help them cover expenses attributable to the COVID-19 epidemic, including lost revenue.

We support this legislation and similar efforts that allow all municipal and city governments to seek assistance regardless of population size. We cannot rely on our state government, which is facing similar revenue shortfalls and increased expenses, to pass federal relief funds to municipalities. Only the federal government has the capacity to help local governments of all sizes from falling off a budgetary cliff.

Without your support for this proposal or others like it, our cities will find it increasingly difficult to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to implement responsible economic recovery initiatives. Many vital industries and thousands of workers rely on these funds and the relief that they would provide. The undersigned mayors, city officials, and U.S. Representative of California's 45th Congressional District urge you to support this request.

Very Truly Yours,

/Katie Porter/
Member of Congress

/Letitia Clark/
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Tustin

/Christina L. Shea/
Mayor, City of Irvine

/Mike Carroll/
Vice Mayor, City of Irvine

/Barry W. Cooper/
Council Member, City of Tustin

/Carol Moore/
Councilmember, City of Laguna Woods

/Melissa Fox/
Councilmember, City of Irvine

/Austin Lombard/
Council Member, City of Tustin

/Joe Rainey/
Councilmember, City of Laguna Woods

/Farrah N. Khan/
Councilmember, City of Irvine

/Charles E. "Chuck" Puckett/
Council Member, City of Tustin

/Neeki Moatazedi/
Mayor, City of Lake Forest

/Anthony Kuo/
Councilmember, City of Irvine

/Noel Hatch/
Mayor, City of Laguna Woods

/Brian Goodell/
Mayor, City of Mission Viejo

/Dr. Allan Bernstein/
Mayor, City of Tustin

/Shari L. Horne/
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Laguna
Woods

/Cynthia Connors/
Councilmember, City of Laguna Woods

The City of Villa Park has shown support for H.R.6467 through a letter submitted to Congresswoman Porter dated April 17, 2020.