

July 23, 2020



The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of
Representatives
1236 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515



The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of
Representatives
2468 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515



Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:



The Metropolitan Civic Leadership Alliance represents organizations comprised of the leading CEOs and senior executives of major employers, professional firms, universities, and civic leaders in large metropolitan areas representing nearly 30 percent of our nation’s gross domestic product. We are committed to making each of our metropolitan regions one of the best places to live, work, and grow a business. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a threat to our communities, it is more important than ever that we work together to keep our communities safe and protect workers, businesses, and the broader economy from the impacts of this crisis.



Congress has an essential role to play, and we urge you to quickly pass another relief package that includes:



Redoubling efforts to execute a nationwide testing, tracing, and quarantine initiative. The ability for employers to ask employees to physically return to work sites and school administrators to reopen schools for in-person instruction, rests on the ability of adequate funding to provide rapid, real-time results for tests, contact tracing, and the development and widespread distribution of a vaccine.



\$500 billion in direct, flexible aid to state, local, tribal, and territory budgets, and treat the District of Columbia equitably with its state peers. States and municipal governments provide the essential services our residents and employers rely on, including aid for our transportation, education, and workforce development systems. Flexible aid funding will deliver immediate and significant fiscal assistance directly to states and municipal governments, who do not have the fiscal tools the federal government has, to help each jurisdiction fight the health crisis after suffering catastrophic losses in state and local revenue streams due to the impacts of COVID-19.

\$36 billion for departments of transportation and public transit agencies to cover COVID-related costs and revenue losses through Fiscal Year 2021. As state and local tax revenues continue to fall, we request that you directly support our departments of transportation, aviation, airports, and public transit agencies. This additional funding will prevent layoffs to transportation workers who have operated the systems through the pandemic, and will allow for adequate, safe service as the public returns to work and school.

Within the umbrella of transportation, we encourage Congress to require large transit agencies to release near-real time data of ridership and vehicle carrying capacity to allow for social distancing. This data will improve transparency and allow employers to build confidence and understand the state of their transit systems. Lastly, this package must provide funds to further support Amtrak and the daunting challenges they face in FY 2021. Funding for Amtrak will protect our nation's rail network, our critical capital assets, and the livelihoods of Amtrak employees.

The future success of our regions – which are directly tied to the nation's prosperity – requires a strong federal partner. We thank you for your work to combat this ongoing crisis and your leadership in the passage of another economic relief package before you recess in August.

Sincerely,

Bay Area Council

Massachusetts Competitive Partnership

Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago

Metro Atlanta Chamber

Greater Houston Partnership

Partnership for New York City

Greater Washington Partnership

Silicon Valley Leadership Group