

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

As Congress works on its next relief package, we are extremely concerned about the significant health risk the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak poses for people experiencing homelessness and on individuals teetering on the edge of homelessness. We strongly urge you to provide \$105 billion to state and local entities to protect those who are unhoused and those on the brink from becoming homeless from COVID-19 through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program and rental assistance programs for low-income individuals and families.

There are an estimated 568,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in America, according to the most recent Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress. This includes 171,670 people in families (including children), 35,038 unaccompanied homeless youth, and 96,141 chronically homeless individuals.

We are very concerned because our neighbors experiencing homelessness reside in public spaces and congregate in shelters, where they may have higher exposure to the virus. Further, nationally, people experiencing homelessness have more limited access to the preventive measures recommended by the nation's health authorities, including, social distancing, home isolation, handwashing, avoiding high-touch surfaces and rapid access to health care.

We must prevent vulnerable individuals and families from becoming homeless. This means helping as many people as possible regain housing, so they neither contract nor spread the coronavirus, and supporting practices in shelters to limit the spread of the virus for those who are not housed.

Our cities are taking swift action to disrupt the spread of the virus and protect the health of our communities, especially among our most vulnerable populations, including coordinating preparedness activities for additional cases and transmission in our communities. We have taken actions to support people living in shelters, single-room

occupancy hotels and permanent supportive housing and low-income renters. But the daily stress on our limited resources calls for federal partnership and assistance.

Thank you for considering this urgent request and your continued leadership in helping to prevent and end homelessness in the United States.

Sincerely,

London N. Breed
Mayor
San Francisco, California

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor
Seattle, Washington

Sam Liccardo
Mayor
San Jose, California

John Giles
Mayor
Mesa, Arizona

Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Washington, District of Columbia

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor
Boston, Massachusetts

Lori Lightfoot
Mayor
Chicago, Illinois

Vi Lyles
Mayor
Charlotte, North Carolina

James F. Kenney
Mayor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Darrell Steinberg
Mayor
Sacramento, California

Eric Garcetti
Mayor
Los Angeles, California

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor
Denver, Colorado

Keisha Lance Bottoms
Mayor
Atlanta, Georgia

Steve Adler
Mayor
Austin, Texas

Kate Gallego
Mayor
Phoenix, Arizona

Mike Coffman
Mayor
Aurora, Colorado

Ted Wheeler
Mayor
Portland, Oregon

David Martin
Mayor
Stamford, Connecticut

Libby Schaaf
Mayor
Oakland, California

Lyda Krewson
Mayor
St. Louis, Missouri

Michael Tubbs
Mayor
Stockton, California

Christopher Cabaldon
Mayor
West Sacramento, California

Lily Mei
Mayor
Fremont, California

Lucy Vinis
Mayor
Eugene, Oregon

Rick Kriseman
Mayor
St. Petersburg, Florida

Jane Castor
Mayor
Tampa, Florida

Pam Hemminger
Mayor
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Paige Gebhardt Coggnetti
Mayor
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Cory Mason
Mayor
Racine, Wisconsin

Regina Romero
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Tucson, Arizona

Denny Doyle
Mayor
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Thomas McGee
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Lynn, Massachusetts

Shep Harris
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Mark W. Mitchell
Mayor
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Cassie Franklin
Mayor
Everett, Washington

Catherine Blakespear
Mayor
Encinitas, California

Carolyn Coleman
Executive Director
League of California Cities