

November 23, 2020

To: The Massachusetts Federal Delegation

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Representative James McGovern

Senator Edward Markey

Representative Seth Moulton

Representative Katherine Clark

Representative Richard Neal

Representative William Keating

Representative Ayanna Pressley

Representative Joseph Kennedy III

Representative Lori Trahan

Representative Stephen Lynch

RE: Federal CARES Funding

Dear Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for all of your efforts to encourage the passage of a COVID relief package and for being so responsive to our many state and local concerns during the pandemic. We were so grateful for the funding authorized under the CARES Act and eagerly await additional federal support despite the roadblocks you face.

As Mayors and Managers from across the Commonwealth, we are already looking ahead to the ways that the pandemic will affect us well into 2021. **We are very worried about the looming deadline by which we must expend all of our CARES funding and we urge you to extend the deadline beyond the end of this calendar year.**

Perhaps most importantly, federal CARES funding has gone to support our communities' public health needs, funding local health staff needs across the Commonwealth. This staff is vital to our ability to continue contact tracing, cluster investigation, enforcement, and education. CARES dollars have also helped some of our hardest hit communities support quarantine and isolation facilities and ensure that they have enough PPE. CARES funding has helped ensure that our schools and workplaces are safe enough to allow our young learners to come back to school and to help businesses survive and adapt in this new normal.

The December 31st deadline creates an arbitrary end date by which we must spend this critical federal aid. But our needs will surely continue well into the new year and they are likely to keep growing as case counts rise. We need funding to address these needs, but the CARES deadline severely hurts our ability to meet these needs as they arise. If the deadline is extended, we can make critical investment decisions today that will help us as our needs remain high in the new year.

At the same time as we are asking you to extend the deadline, we are eager to see the passage of a subsequent federal relief package that provides critical revenue to communities and regions. At the state level, we are urging Governor Baker to make stopgap funding available for local health departments and high-risk communities. This state assistance

would allow us to continue limited public health investments and give extra assistance to communities who are facing continued rates of high community spread, but it is not enough to enable us to ramp up our efforts to address the virus while we equitably rebuild and recover.

We hope that a second relief package will include at least the following items: expanded unemployment benefits; financial support for local, regional, and state governments; funding to address housing insecurity; support for expanding testing and contact tracing; and significant support for small businesses.

We stand ready to work with you to advance our shared priorities.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Ambrosino
City Manager of Chelsea

Scott C. Crabtree
Town Manager of Saugus

Anthony Ansaldi
Town Administrator of Wenham

Carlo DeMaria
Mayor of Everett

Brian M. Arrigo
Mayor of Revere

Louis A. DePasquale
City Manager of Cambridge

Antonio Barletta
Town Administrator of Nahant

Joseph J. Domelowicz, Jr.
Town Manager of Hamilton

Steve Bartha
Town Manager of Danvers

Kimberley Driscoll
Mayor of Salem

Tom Bernard
Mayor of North Adams

Chris Dwelley
Town Administrator of Dover

Paul Brodeur
Mayor of Melrose

Gregory T. Federspiel
Town Administrator of Manchester-by-the-Sea

Richard Brown
Town Administrator of Somerset

Leon A. Gaumont Jr.
Town Manager of Weston

Adam Chapdelaine
Town Administrator of Arlington

Michael P. Gilleberto
Town Administrator of North Reading

Gary Christenson
Mayor of Malden

Brian P. Howard
Town Manager of Randolph

Paul E. Coogan
Mayor of Fall River

Gregory W. Johnson
Town Administrator of Maynard

Melvin A. Kleckner
Town Administrator of Brookline

Charles C. Kokoros
Mayor of Braintree

Robert W. LeLacheur, Jr. CFA
Town Manager of Reading

Breanna Lungo-Koehn
Mayor of Medford

Thomas M. McGee
Mayor of Lynn

Alex Morse
Mayor of Holyoke

Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues
Town Manager of North Andover

Neil Perry
Mayor of Methuen

Andrew Sheehan
Town Administrator of Middleton

Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer
Mayor of Framingham

Sarah A. Stanton
Town Manager of Bedford

Robert F. Sullivan
Mayor of Brockton

Linda M. Tyer
Mayor of Pittsfield

Lisa Wong
Town Manager of Winchester

Jason Silva
Town Administrator of Marblehead