



Gettysburg
HISTORIC CROSSROADS

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17 April 2020

Honorable John Joyce
13th Congressional District – Pennsylvania
282 West King Street
Abbottstown, PA 17301
(717) 357-6320

RE: Please co-sponsor the Coronavirus Community Relief Act (H.R. 6467)

Dear Congressman Joyce:

Please sign on as a co-sponsor and supporter of the Coronavirus Community Relief Act (H.R. 6467) if you haven't done so already. As you know, 61% of the population of the U.S. lives in communities with less than 50,000 residents are not likely to benefit from direct relief under the CARES Act. The consequences of this are dire.

The extraordinary measures that local governments are taking to protect residents from ill health and fiscal decline are unbudgeted, and incredibly costly. Utility disconnect prohibitions, eviction moratoriums, stop work orders, and fine/fee waiving are among the necessary and appropriate actions taken locally. At the same time, lost revenue from these actions cannot be recouped through the local tax base.

Because local governments must achieve balanced budgets, and in most cases are preempted by various tax and expenditure limits, these massive and unprecedented reductions of every type of revenue stream for local governments, regardless of population, are leading cities, boroughs, and towns to the economic brink. Without a significant federal intervention for local budget relief, local governments will have no choice but to begin enacting costly process delays, cuts in essential services, and lay-offs for critical (and essential) employees.

The Coronavirus Community Relief Act will prevent these consequences by:

1. Creating a separate, dedicated fund of \$250 billion for units of local government with a population of less than 500,000 people to receive funds directly from the Treasury Department instead of applying to the State as a subgrantee. This will ensure needed funds will get to smaller local governments more quickly.
2. Allowing units of local government to use allocated funds to cover losses related to unbudgeted costs and falling revenue. Section 601 of the CARES Act restricts use of funds to cover "necessary expenditures." Cities, towns, and villages will need federal assistance to persevere through the hardship resulting from rising costs and decreasing tax revenue and fees due to COVID-19. This

change from the CARES Act will help local communities deal with revenue shortfalls that will happen as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

3. Providing the necessary flexibility on how allocated funds can be used. If one city needs more funds than it is allocated while another city does not need all its allocated funds, funds can be reallocated among cities within a state to ensure funds are put to their best use. This is a change from the CARES Act.

4. Changing the rule regarding when a city, borough, town, or village must certify in order to receive funds. Instead of placing a burdensome “shot clock” by which cities, towns, and villages must apply, this legislation allows more time for an applicant to request funds. Smaller cities, boroughs, and towns are facing unprecedented challenges and could be facing layoffs. In this environment, a “shot clock” to apply puts unneeded pressure on smaller communities in crisis.

Please consider support for all cities in your district and our State. My community depends on it.

Sincerely,

Constituent
13th Congressional District
Pennsylvania

Street/House Number	Street Name
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_____, PA _____
City Zip Code