



April 8, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Pelosi:

We are writing to request additional federal funding be allocated to the District of Columbia to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) commends your leadership and quick passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide assistance to state and local governments to combat the epidemic and provide economic relief to our residents and businesses.

However, the bill does not provide adequate or appropriate funding for the District of Columbia. While the District is not a state, with a population of over 700,000 and annual federal taxes of \$6.5 billion, they are typically included in state funding formulas. We believe the allocation of \$500 million, less than half of the minimum \$1.25 billion guaranteed to each state, has shortchanged the nation's capital by \$725 million.

This decision impacts the entire National Capital Region - home to over 6 million residents and the seat of the federal government, with hundreds of thousands of employees and contractors serving the country. The health of the National Capital Region is a top priority for the continuity of our democratic government and critical to continuing federal government functions.

Given the inter-connectivity of the population living and working in the District of Columbia, northern Virginia and suburban Maryland, the allocation of additional federal funds to the District of Columbia is essential to helping combat COVID-19 in the District of Columbia and throughout the metropolitan Washington region.

We strongly urge you to reconcile this decision by allocating additional funds to the District of Columbia as soon as possible to combat the COVID-19 epidemic.

We look forward to hearing your next steps on moving this reconciliation forward. If you have any questions, please reach out to COG's Executive Director Chuck Bean at cbean@mwkog.org or (202)962-3260.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Derrick L. Davis in black ink.

Derrick L. Davis
Chair, Board of Directors
Prince George's County

Handwritten signature of Christian Dorsey in black ink.

Christian Dorsey
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
Arlington County

Handwritten signature of Robert C. White, Jr. in blue ink.

Robert C. White, Jr.
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
District of Columbia