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November 30, 2020

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader

U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Richard Neal
Chairman

Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader

U.S. Senate
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader

U.S. Senate
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Kevin Brady
Ranking Member

Ways and Means Committee
1139 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

Thank you for everything you have done thus far in providing critical relief to communities reeling from the health, societal, and economic effects of COVID-19. We are grateful for the federal support, but we write today to ask that Congress consider extending the spending-related deadline for relief funding so Americans can receive the full benefit of this assistance.

COVID-19 has impacted every facet of American society. In anticipation of unprecedented costs and economic disruption stemming from the pandemic, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which President Trump signed into law. This legislation established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), which provides financial assistance to communities for expenses incurred due to COVID-19.

One of the restrictions placed on the funding, however, limits the money's use to expenses incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020. This time frame likely made sense in late March when the CARES Act was passed, but we have learned a great deal about COVID-19 in the past seven months. Among other things, we know that the pandemic will continue to challenge communities well beyond December 30, 2020 – a deadline that now seems unreasonable.

With COVID-19 cases rising daily in much of the country and many states still under a health emergency declaration, we urge Congress to amend the CRF program to allow state and local governments to spend the funding at least until December 31, 2021.

In some states, Attorneys General are being called upon to help distribute CARES funding, a role that has given us firsthand knowledge of the difficulties posed by the current deadline.

For example, the Ohio Attorney General's Office is administering a grant program providing reimbursement for eligible COVID-19 expenses to rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, and child advocacy centers. Establishing standards and procedures for a grant program took time, thus reducing the time that these organizations have had to apply for and receive reimbursements. All the while, these groups' need for COVID-related assistance has grown only more substantial, a demand that is not likely to subside anytime soon.

The CARES Act is a program that is delivering critical resources to local governments, businesses, nonprofits, and families. We collectively thank you for your leadership on this issue and hope that you will carefully consider our request to extend the deadline for eligible expenses through 2021.

Yours,



Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General



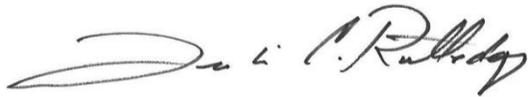
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Ohio Attorney General



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Mitzie Jessop Taase
American Samoa Attorney General



Leslie Rutledge
Arkansas Attorney General



Xavier Becerra
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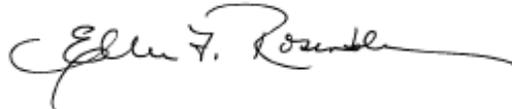
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Inés del C. Carrau-Martínez
Acting Puerto Rico Attorney General



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South Dakota Attorney General



Eric S. Schmitt
Missouri Attorney General



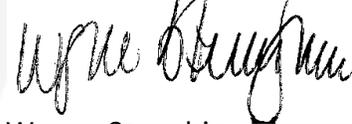
Aaron D. Ford
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New Jersey Attorney General



Letitia James
New York Attorney General



Wayne Stenehjem
North Dakota Attorney General



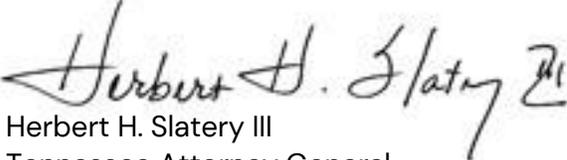
Mike Hunter
Oklahoma Attorney General



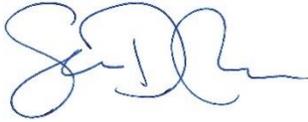
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Peter F. Neronha
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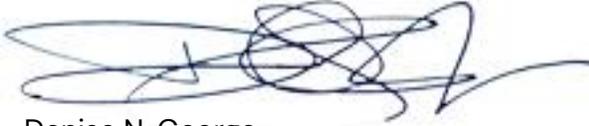
Herbert H. Slatery III
Tennessee Attorney General



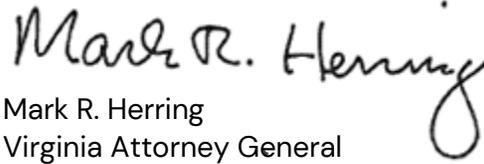
Sean Reyes
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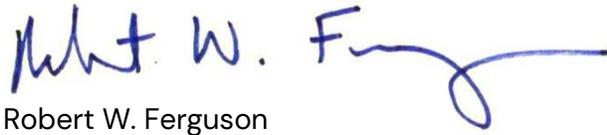
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