



Ohio Municipal League  
175 S. Third St., Ste. 510  
Columbus, OH 43215

April 8, 2020

Dear Congressperson:

Thank you for your continued leadership as Ohio and its local governments continue to navigate this ongoing and unprecedented crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ohio's cities and villages are on the front lines of the battle against the spread of the coronavirus. They continue to deliver vital services like sound infrastructure and public safety while law enforcement and first responders, such as EMTs, work to increase capacity and level of care in treating sick Ohioans.

The vast majority of Ohio's municipalities are wholly reliant on the income tax as their primary source of revenue. 70% to 80% of Ohio's cities' and villages' general operating funds is revenue generated through their municipal income tax. Because of this, Ohio's municipalities are especially vulnerable to the coming economic impact that will devastate many local budgets.

According to a report by the Brookings Institute, Ohio's municipalities will be the hardest hit nationally by the economic impacts of the coronavirus. From the report, the top five cities in their list of municipalities across the country that will have the most immediate economic impact from the coronavirus are all Ohio cities.

Our cities and villages will experience a swifter and more acute impact financially than other cities across the nation. As more of our residents file for unemployment, Ohio's cities and villages face a financial crisis that jeopardizes their ability keep their residents safe.

We ask that Phase 4 of the federal aid package contain municipal stabilization funding. Without a substantial financial injection, municipalities will be forced to consider staffing cuts to critical services such as water plants, health departments, sanitation services, and first responders such as police and fire personnel. These cuts would be devastating in midst of the worst public health crisis in American history.

Additionally, municipal stabilization funding will provide a financial lifeline, allowing cities to survive the economic shut down and preventing cities from having to make deep cuts with reverberating consequences throughout our regional economies and prolonging our economic recovery.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett  
Executive Director  
Ohio Municipal League

Sharon Cassler  
Cambridge Clerk of Council, President  
Ohio Municipal League

Jeffrey Hazel  
Mayor of Celina, President  
Mayors Association of Ohio