



Pennsylvania Municipal
League

PML.org
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February 11, 2021

Dear Members of Congress:

We are writing as on behalf of Pennsylvania's municipalities to express our strong support for President Biden's American Rescue Plan which contains \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments.

It is clear the COVID-19 pandemic will leave Pennsylvania with long-term, negative social and economic impacts that we will be living with for years to come: long-term unemployment, education gaps, financially devastated and closed businesses, increased mental health issues, addiction, eviction, and most tragically the loss of loved-ones. All of these, coupled with the fact that our low-income and communities of color have disproportionately been effected by COVID-19, puts tremendous strain upon Pennsylvania's residents and communities at a time when we are just digging out from the Great Recession. Pennsylvania cannot afford to be set back another decade.

Our local governments, which are on the frontlines of delivering emergency and essential services, have also borne the brunt of these negative effects. We have had to furlough workers, freeze hiring, reduce our workforces through attrition, freeze capital budgets and assume the increased costs of responding to COVID-19 while our own workers are exposed to the virus. We are deeply concerned that the negative effects of COVID-19 will leave a structural deficit on our public finances, as well as weaken the strength of our non-profit and business sectors. And, now we are being called upon to assist in the most important phase of all—vaccinating our residents.

We therefore appeal to you to adopt the President's Plan which includes \$350 billion of aid to state and local governments. It is absolutely essential that this aid come directly to local governments and be flexible in its use, including assistance to address strained budgets and the social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

We strongly and sincerely urge your adoption of President Biden's American Rescue Plan. Any questions or comments can be directed to Rick Schuettler, Executive Director, at rschuettler@pml.org or Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, at asturges@pml.org.

Sincerely,
The Pennsylvania Municipal League Executive Committee

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