



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230 U.S. Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
SS-221 U.S. Senate
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-232 U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
H-204 U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

I write to you today to urge the inclusion of fiscally responsible language in any pending COVID-19 relief legislation. A “litmus test” requiring a solid history of balanced budgets should most certainly be a core principle of any further expenditures of the people’s treasure with regards to COVID-19. State and local government entities must not be “bailed out” under the pretense of financial relief from COVID-19 impact.

As you know, prior to the onset of COVID-19, many states and municipalities were already experiencing budget shortfalls due to decades of their own negligence and liberal policies. Now, under the guise of COVID-19 financial relief, those same liberal government entities are anticipating tremendous sums of money, untold billions of dollars, from the Federal government. All Americans want to help our small towns, cities, counties and parishes. We want to help them recover from COVID-19 economic impact. However, Americans do NOT want COVID-19 relief monies used to float the debt and deficit spending of fiscally irresponsible cities across America.

As a Constitutionalist, I personally support a Balanced Budget Amendment to our Constitution. That’s another battle. While Congress is debating balanced budget initiatives and the fiscally conservative amongst us are fighting to curb excessive federal spending, we must recognize that we are in a unique position to place reasonable, common sense parameters in the language of any pending COVID-19 relief bill, to constrain which municipalities and states are able to benefit from this taxpayer-funded program. Prioritizing funding to those government entities within our sovereign states who were fiscally responsible prior to the onset of COVID-19 should be our mission. I urge the inclusion of clear language in any forthcoming COVID-19

relief package that will forbid bailing out state and local governments who have mismanaged their finances for decades.

I formally request that you work with the United States Department of Treasury to develop a formula that prioritizes states, counties, parishes, municipalities, small towns and villages that had demonstrated sound financial standing or balanced budgets prior to the impact of COVID-19.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Clay Higgins
United States Congressman

CC:
The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
United States Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220