



CITY OF OCEANSIDE

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Mike Levin
1626 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: HR 6467: THE CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY RELIEF ACT

Dear Representative Levin,

On behalf of the City of Oceanside, I am writing to express our support of H.R. 6467, the Coronavirus Community Relief Act and to urge you to cosponsor this bill.

H.R. 6467 provides \$250 billion in direct aid from the federal government to local governments with a population of less than 500,000 as we face mounting challenges related to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The scale of this global crisis is unprecedented, and so is the scope of local government response. California cities of all sizes are coordinating across jurisdictional lines, enacting emergency measures to slow the spread of the virus, acting to protect individuals and small businesses, while spending as necessary to protect public health.

The City of Oceanside applauds Congress on the passage of the CARES Act, to provide financial assistance to help individuals and small businesses, as well as \$150 billion in direct aid to states and local governments with a population greater than 500,000 to help offset the costs directly related to the pandemic. However, given the population threshold, **only four** of California's 482 cities will receive this much needed aid. H.R. 6467 creates a path for the other 99.2 percent of California cities that were shut out of the CARES Act to receive direct federal aid.

The Coronavirus Community Relief Act also addresses some other gaps not covered by the CARES Act. The proposed Bill allows units of local government to use allocated funds to cover losses. Section 601 of the CARES Act restricts use of funds to cover "necessary expenditures." Cities, towns, and villages will need federal assistance to persevere through the hardship resulting from rising costs and decreasing tax revenue and fees due to COVID-19. This change from the CARES Act will help us deal with revenue shortfalls that are already occurring as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Coronavirus Community Relief Act also provides the necessary flexibility on how allocated funds can be used -- these resources can be reallocated among cities within a state to ensure they are put to their best use, unlike the CARES Act.

Finally, the Coronavirus Community Relief Act changes the rule regarding when a City must certify in order to receive funds. Instead of placing a burdensome "shot clock" by which cities, towns, and villages

must apply, this legislation allows more time for an applicant to request funds. Smaller cities and towns are facing unprecedented challenges and could be facing layoffs. In this environment, a "shot clock" to apply puts unneeded pressure on smaller communities in crisis.

California's local leaders are, and will continue to be for some time, on the frontlines of responding to the coronavirus outbreak in their communities and doing what is necessary to ensure the health and safety of their residents. I urge you to support and cosponsor H.R. 6467 to ensure they have the resources to maintain the essential services their residents need, especially in this moment.

To co-sponsor the bill, please contact Bo Morris in the office of Rep. Joe Neguse at Bo.Morris@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Weiss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "W".

Peter Weiss
MAYOR