

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2020

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

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

As you begin work on the fourth COVID-19 stimulus and recovery package, we urge you to ensure an equitable and equal per-capita distribution of funds to states so that all Americans can benefit equally no matter where they live. We applaud the hard work that went into the CARES Act and we recognize that it was necessary that the historic relief package moved as quickly as it did given the toll COVID-19 is taking on our communities.

Unfortunately, a very unfair spending formula for emergency grants to states and municipalities was incorporated by the Senate the CARES bill. Citizens in states with populations above 3.5 million saw their benefits reduced to \$390 per capita, while citizens of other states favored by the Senate are due to receive per-capita benefits up to \$2100 per person – over five times larger. Many of us representing states with populations over 3.5 million are finding this discrepancy very hard to justify to our constituents.

At a time when we are all in this together, it is important that emergency aid flow equally to all citizens no matter where they live. An equal per capita distribution of funds is the only way to ensure that all states and territories have an equal fighting chance at rebuilding after this pandemic. As leaders of the “People’s House”, where citizens are equally represented no matter what state they live in, we urge you to insist on a truly fair, equal per-capita distribution of funds to all states, territories, and districts. We further urge you that this correction be retroactive, and that the fundamental principle of equal per-capita distribution of relief be applied to all programs in this and future coronavirus response packages.

We thank you for your attention and we urge you to treat every American equally, regardless of where they live.

Sincerely,



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Joe Cunningham
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress