



March 21, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

**Robin Vos**  
Assembly Speaker  
Wisconsin  
President, NCSL

**Martha R. Wigton**  
Director  
House Budget & Research  
Office  
Georgia  
Staff Chair, NCSL

**Tim Storey**  
Executive Director

Re: Response COVID-19 Stimulus Package

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

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), a bipartisan organization with a 45-year legacy representing the legislatures of the 50 states and territories, we stand with you in combatting this global pandemic affecting all Americans. Like you, state legislative leaders are facing unprecedented challenges due to the outbreak and its catastrophic effects on our economy.

Securing the public health and addressing individual health needs were addressed in the COVID-19 response package passed last week, the president's National Emergency Declaration, and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. As states continue to address the fallout on the economic front line, they now require immediate flexible aid to address their specific needs. The depth and extent of this downturn will hamper the ability of states and territories to deliver vital services, stabilize the American economy, and support the businesses that drive their local economies.

With expected double-digit unemployment figures and the risk of recession high, NCSL urges Congress to provide states immediate flexible aid to assist them in managing through this crisis. Lessons learned from the implementation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 prove that mechanisms enhancing fiscal federalism, while not imposing federal regulations, are critical to stabilizing the entire U.S. economy.

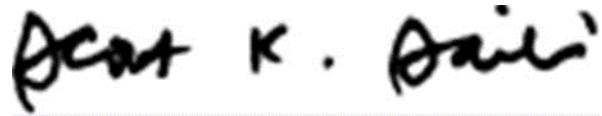
State leaders, both governors and legislators, are eager to partner with you and the administration to overcome the effects of this virus and speed up economic recovery. As you consider the broader economic relief to our nation, consider the principles attached to this letter. These proposals have the thoughtful support of state leaders striving to ameliorate the massive the health and economic effects of this emergency.

If you have any further questions, please contact Erlinda A. Doherty, Director of the NCSL Budgets and Revenue Committee, at 202-624-8698 or [erlinda.doherty@ncsl.org](mailto:erlinda.doherty@ncsl.org). In addition, please visit our own [COVID-19 webpage](#), which contains a compendium of real-time resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Vos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robin" being more prominent than the last name "Vos".

Speaker Robin Vos, Wisconsin  
President, NCSL

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott K. Saiki". The signature is written in a bold, slightly blocky cursive style. Below the signature is a thin horizontal line.

Speaker Scott Saiki, Hawaii  
President-elect, NCSL

## **Proposals to Consider to Support State Legislatures in Combatting the Overall Effects of the COVID-19 Virus:**

- Provide \$150 billion in flexible direct aid to states to ensure they have the necessary resources to address the COVID-19 crisis.
- To address the increase in need for states and territories to rapidly respond to COVID-19, we urge Congress to increase the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), above the 6.2% increase included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, without diverting funds from other programs critical to state operations. We urge Congress to consider this increase for expansion and non-expansion states.
- In order to guarantee continuity of our democratic processes during this uncertainty, we request support for increased funding and flexibility in elections administration, not preemption, for states to determine the safest and most appropriate system for their elections processes. This could include measures for mail-in voting, waivers for postage fees, and increased printing capacity.