



March 13, 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 to COVID-19 Virus Outbreak

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

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), I write to express the support of state legislators for consideration of legislation that would ameliorate the potential effects of the COVID-19 virus. State governments will face massive challenges in responding to, and as a result of, this global pandemic. While we support approaches providing immediate relief to those affected, as well as, longer-term economic stimulus, we urge Congress to ensure that states continue to have all financial tools and flexibility available to them, and allow states to continue to manage federal funds through their established, transparent budget processes.

In addition, wherever possible, we support measures that would increase the flexibility for the use of such federal funds so that states can address the needs of their citizens in a manner which suits them best. States have diverse economies, demographics and unique challenges, which may only be exacerbated during these uncertain times. Mechanisms to enhance fiscal federalism—and not impose federal regulations—is of the utmost importance during pandemic response periods.

NCSL—a bipartisan organization representing all 50-state legislatures and territories—is ready to work together with Congress and the Administration to help our country mitigate and recover from this health crisis. States are resilient and are looking to the federal government for continued partnership and leadership in addressing immediate citizen needs, as well as broader economic stimulus. We are also prepared to provide any resources and information from our 45-year history of

representing legislatures and analyzing state policy. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Erlinda A. Doherty, Director of the NCSL Budgets and Revenue Committee, at 202-624-8698 or 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 blue ink that reads "Tim Storey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Tim Storey, Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures