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December 21, 2020

Dear Illinois Congressional Delegation:

It is my understanding that congressional leadership has come to an agreement regarding a supplemental COVID-19 relief package. That package includes roughly \$900 billion in federal assistance, but allocates zero dollars to help the cities, villages and towns throughout Illinois as they try to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congress has failed again to address both the immediate and long-term effects of this pandemic on municipalities, where the impact is felt through the compounded effect of struggling citizens, business and organizations – the pillars of every local community.

In a survey done by the Illinois Municipal League (IML) this summer, nearly 87% of responding municipalities in Illinois stated that they expect to realize a revenue shortfall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To address those shortfalls, nearly 47% of those same communities expected to reduce municipal personnel and/or services, including public safety. Nearly 20% expected to delay or reduce critical capital projects.

As a member of Congress, you have an obligation to help all 1,298 cities, villages and towns in Illinois and yet, once again, municipalities are left without the necessary relief to continue providing the critical services that the public relies on.

The Illinois Municipal League, joined by the National League of Cities and the United States Conference of Mayors, is disappointed that Congress cannot find a pathway to assist local governments with the ongoing economic devastation the COVID-19 pandemic has caused on every community in every legislative district in Illinois and across the nation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance with this or any other matter. I may be reached by email at [bcole@iml.org](mailto:bcole@iml.org) or by cell phone at (618) 201-7320. Thanks.

Yours very truly,



BRAD COLE  
Executive Director

c: IML Board of Directors  
Governor JB Pritzker

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