



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

April 10, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Re: COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds for WV Response Costs

Dear President Trump:

Thank you for working to secure a bipartisan agreement in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748, the CARES Act) at this unprecedented time in our nation's history. The CARES Act and other federal funding will be vital in stemming the damage the COVID-19 pandemic reeks on our nation's health and economy and will be just as vital in re-energizing the national, state, and local economies.

I write to you today to request that the rules currently being drafted regarding implementation of the CARES Act allow certain of those funds to go to our emergency responders and other essential workers, tirelessly working to get us through this pandemic.

West Virginia's sons and daughters have long served in defense of this nation, with more military service members and veterans per capita than any other state in the nation. Now, West Virginians are serving in defense of this nation at home, in our hospitals and on our streets, against the COVID-19 pandemic. Our healthcare workers, emergency responders, law enforcement, and fire departments, among many other responders, continue to show up to work to help their neighbors and to help our nation combat this pandemic.

To demonstrate our nation's commitment to those workers and responders who have been on the front lines, I am writing to request that the following state, county, and municipal pandemic response expenditures be considered expenses for which federal funds may be used:

1. Emergency operations center expenditures associated with the pandemic.

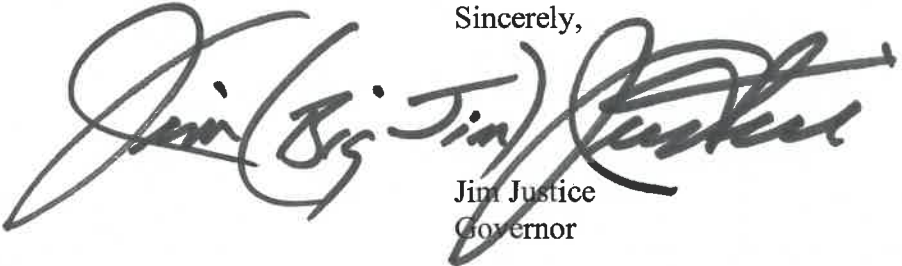
2. Health department and public health worker expenditures associated with the pandemic.
3. Paramedic and emergency medical services and worker expenditures associated with the pandemic.
4. Law enforcement and corrections expenditures associated with the pandemic.
5. Fire department expenditures associated with the pandemic.
6. Social services and homeless support expenditures associated with the pandemic.
7. Personal protective equipment, medical supplies, and other materials expenditures associated with the pandemic.
8. Sanitation expenditures associated with the pandemic.
9. Expenditures to ensure effective continuity of government services and operations associated with the pandemic response, including expenditures for public communication and outreach associated with the pandemic response.
10. Other extraordinary expenditures to frontline workers and responders associated with the pandemic.

Speed and flexibility are key to making these relief funds work for states, counties, and municipalities that have responded to the call to stop the spread of this pandemic, and clear rules that adopt a broad interpretation of the permitted uses of all relief funds will allow our communities to determine the best use of those funds to respond to both public health impacts and the economic impacts caused by the pandemic.

I respectfully request that you direct your Secretary of the Treasury to issue guidance for states outlining Treasury's interpretation of the CARES Act and other federal funding. Such guidance should include the ability to use such federal funds to provide additional compensation to those essential workers and emergency responders without whom our response to this pandemic couldn't have happened.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and thank you for your incredible leadership throughout this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice". The signature is written over the typed name and title.

Jim Justice
Governor

cc: Majority Leader McConnell

Speaker Pelosi

Secretary Mnuchin