



Illinois State Association of Counties

July 16, 2020

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) greatly appreciates your efforts on behalf of our local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. I write to respectfully request that you support additional federal funding for local governments.

While the CARES Act has done much to provide critical funding for local governments across the country, ISACo has concerns over the impacts of lost revenues caused by Coronavirus-related economic shutdowns, especially the impacts on smaller and more rural communities. Consequently, ISACo supports an increase in federal assistance to act as a counter measure against these negative economic impacts.

Counties across the country are responsible for operating and supporting over 1,900 local public health departments and 1,000 public hospitals and critical access clinics. Counties are also responsible for additional services and duties in support of emergency operations centers, public safety, seniors and veterans. Our nation's counties have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 response and much of the economic impact of the pandemic is felt at the local level.

The county emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in growing budgetary and economic challenges. Illinois is most certainly not immune to these deleterious financial impacts.

Recent research conducted by the National Association of Counties (NACo) found that counties nationwide can expect a combined \$144 billion loss to their budgets through FY 2020. NACo also found that an additional \$54 billion in property tax revenue is at risk in states where counties have not yet collected any or all property taxes. These budgetary problems present an ever-greater threat for small counties who, in total, may see a 24 percent reduction to their overall budgets.

ISACo urges that you support a new round of direct, flexible financial funding for local governments of all sizes. Local governments must be able to use these funds to offset lost revenues caused by the economic shutdown.

Once again, ISACo appreciates your efforts to help Illinois' counties during this difficult time. Please feel welcome to contact me at (217) 679-3368 or at jmccoy@isacoil.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe McCoy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "M".

Joe McCoy
Executive Director
Illinois State Association of Counties