

NEW YORK  
STATE  
SENATE



ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247

June 24, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

We are State Senators from New York, collectively representing well over a million residents who are suffering as a result of the United States Senate's failure to fund our state and local governments. Washington's reluctance to assist during this public health crisis has pushed New York into a desperate financial situation, and the state has taken drastic measures as a result. Specifically, the state announced yesterday that it is withholding Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) payments to 12 major cities, totaling \$74 million. This has real-world consequences for the citizens we represent, and not only will it detrimentally impact our localities' ability to fight COVID, but it will also undermine their ability to provide basic services. The time to act is now.

The COVID-19 pandemic has harmed many people across the country, but nowhere has the impact been felt more than in New York. Our state has committed tens of billions of dollars to fighting the spread of this virus and protecting our citizens, and the work must continue. Our local governments are on the frontlines, providing essential services such as emergency response, food pantries, housing and law enforcement. However, the absence of adequate funding has made this task much more difficult and threatens to undermine their fiscal health as well as their ability to carry out critical functions.

Local governments affected by these measures have advised us that the loss of funding may mean job cuts for critical employees, halting infrastructure projects and curtailing other necessary services. These are unacceptable results. Your delay is causing real hardship and the time for politics passed long ago. Do the right thing and provide our localities the funding they require and deserve. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Andrea Stewart-Cousins in black ink.

Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Senate Majority Leader

Handwritten signature of Todd Kaminsky in black ink.

Todd Kaminsky  
Senator, 9th District

Handwritten signature of Shelley B. Mayer in black ink.

Shelley Mayer  
Senator, 37th District

Handwritten signature of Neil D. Breslin in black ink.

Neil Breslin  
Senator, 44th District

Handwritten signature of Rachel May in blue ink.

Rachel May  
Senator, 53rd District

Handwritten signature of Timothy M. Kennedy in black ink.

Tim Kennedy  
Senator, 63rd District

CC: Hon. Charles Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senate  
Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor, New York State  
Robert Mujica, Director, NYS Division of the Budget