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April 27, 2020

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senate
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan
U.S. House of Representatives
1421 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Steil
U.S. House of Representatives
1408 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner
U.S. House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Glenn Grothman
U.S. House of Representatives
1427 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
U.S. House of Representatives
1230 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
2252 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Members of Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and our 72-member counties, thank you for your bipartisan leadership to deliver critical resources to communities across Wisconsin that are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Counties remain on the frontlines of our nation's ongoing public health emergency response and overall public safety efforts.

We are committed to continuing to work with both Congress and the White House to address the many significant health, safety, and economic impacts associated with the virus. As we move toward recovery, further strengthening the intergovernmental partnership is essential for county officials serving at ground zero of this unprecedented public health and economic crisis.

Our 72-member county governments employ thousands of proud public servants, including many within our local public health departments and long-term care facilities. Our frontline personnel,

including our public and community health professionals, deputy sheriffs, 911 operators, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, county veterans service officers, and jail administrators, among many others, depend on strong intergovernmental partnerships between federal, state, tribal, and local officials.

As Congress considers a fourth COVID-19 response package, we urge you to prioritize the work being done by counties to fight this pandemic. We ask that you consider providing direct, flexible funding and resources to counties of all sizes.

As we work to protect our citizens, local businesses, and economies, we are making significant financial investments to address immediate public health and safety needs. At the same time, we are experiencing massive and unprecedented declines in revenue as a result of the economic downturn and are working to quickly reprogram resources and staff to respond to the crisis. The decline in revenue is occurring when the need for county services and functions is skyrocketing for things like child protective services, emergency 911 assistance, law enforcement and emergency management, nutrition assistance programs and assistance for elderly Americans.

It is our hope you will work with us to provide the necessary funding to keep these programs in operation, as they are needed now more than ever. Thank you for considering our comments and concerns as we work in partnership to get through these difficult times.

Sincerely,



Mark D. O'Connell
Executive Director
Wisconsin Counties Association