Dear Member of Ohio’s Congressional Delegation

Ohio’s cities and villages are experiencing historic budget shortfalls as they respond to the growing pandemic. With jobless rates well in the double digits for almost every major city in the state and with the reliance on the municipal income tax as the largest source of revenue for municipalities across the state, the financial outlook for Ohio’s hometowns is bleak. Without additional emergency relief from Congress cities will be ill-equipped to support a quick recovery from this unprecedented recession.

We are asking Congress to act quickly and provide direct flexible federal assistance to state and local governments. Relief funds will contribute to local governments’ ability to maintain essential services, planned capital expenditures and keeping the workforce employed.

All of our cities are facing this devastating reduction in revenue through no fault of our own. In addition, we are facing this fiscal crisis at the same time we are facing major public health and public safety challenges, leading to an exponential increase in demand for our services, especially on the public health and safety front. Ohio cities are major employers that provide core local government services to tens of millions of Ohioans that are critical to public health, safety, and welfare and that serve as the foundation of our economy. However, we are all mandated to balance our budgets; absent direct and flexible assistance, we will be forced to cut our workforce and reduce services, exacerbating the economic and public health crises created by this pandemic.

If the Senate fails to act immediately to support state and local governments, our nation’s recovery from the pandemic-induced recession will suffer and Ohio’s communities will continue to endure the extreme challenges caused by this public health crisis.

We want to thank you for all you have done to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic and fiscal crisis. Congress has taken swift and bold action commensurate with the scope of the crisis and we appreciate your efforts to help our nation address this challenge. Unfortunately, as the virus continues to surge in Ohio, more federal assistance will be needed for the state and its municipalities to weather the unprecedented economic downturn we face. As such, we want to reiterate our urgent request that you quickly pass an additional measure that includes direct and flexible fiscal assistance to all cities across the nation.