



**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
United States House of Representatives  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Representative Bilirakis:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
United States House of Representatives  
2427 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Buchanan:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
United States House of Representatives  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Castor:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
United States House of Representatives  
215 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Crist:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Val Demings  
United States House of Representatives  
217 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Demings:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ted Deutch  
United States House of Representatives  
2447 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Deutch:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
United States House of Representatives  
404 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Diaz-Balart:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Neal Dunn  
United States House of Representatives  
316 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dunn:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Lois Frankel  
United States House of Representatives  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Frankel:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Matt Gaetz  
United States House of Representatives  
1721 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gaetz:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Alcee Hastings  
United States House of Representatives  
2353 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hastings:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Al Lawson  
United States House of Representatives  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lawson:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Brian Mast  
United States House of Representatives  
2182 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mast:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
United States House of Representatives  
114 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mucarsel-Powell:

On behalf of Florida's counties, thank you for your leadership efforts on the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act. This package would provide much-needed assistance by enhancing coronavirus relief assistance for state and local governments. We are extremely appreciative that you included "lost revenue" as an eligible use of funds, both as part of Sec. 601 of the CARES Act and as part of your new preliminary proposal for additional state and local aid.

Counties remain on the frontlines of Florida's response and overall public safety efforts. This is due in large part to the emergency management structure created in state law, which requires counties to have an emergency management agency, an emergency management director, and to maintain and implement a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Our emergency response teams include a wide range of county personnel, including our public and community health professionals, sheriffs, 911 operators, firefighters, EMT/paramedics, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) experts, coroners/medical examiners, child welfare and aging service providers, substance abuse and mental health counselors, veterans service officers, homelessness program coordinators and jail administrators. While county emergency response teams are strong, in times of emergencies, their effectiveness depends on a strong state and federal partnership.

**We strongly urge Congress to allocate resources directly to counties as most states mandate the implementation of public health and emergency response responsibilities to county governments.** Given the reality of the unprecedented resources counties need for COVID-19 response, **we respectfully ask you to modify your use of the traditional Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula in the Interim Emergency COVID-19 Relief Act.**

The CDBG formula was not designed to allocate funds in a public health emergency. While we agree that the HUD CDBG framework is among one of the best, most efficient ways to award federal aid directly and as a pass-through to local governments, ***the traditional formula is based on low-to-moderate housing and community development conditions.*** Under the context of the COVID-19 public health and overall economic crisis, we strongly urge you to develop a more balanced allocation method that takes into consideration both the skyrocketing costs and declining revenues for America's county governments.

Let us be clear that we understand and support the important roles and pressures facing both cities and counties. Our ultimate goal is to establish a fair and equitable formula that would create a "win-win" situation for all local governments.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, the CDBG formula creates immense disparities and fails to take into consideration both the overall population served and the frontline responsibilities of counties.

Finally, as counties spend more and more responding to this public health crisis, we believe that more than \$150 billion will be required to protect our residents and continue administering public services. **Expanding the overall amount of relief to local governments to \$250 billion, as proposed now in the House and Senate, would help to ease the disparity between counties and cities and provide counties with the resources we need to fight against COVID-19 into the summer and beyond.**

Again, we are thankful for your incredible leadership and focus on the overwhelming needs and challenges facing state and local governments. We also appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face with both mounting costs and declining revenues. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you team. We are committed to a solution that helps our nation mitigate, respond and recover from these historic times.

Sincerely,



Nick Maddox  
President, Florida Association of Counties









**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
United States House of Representatives  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bilirakis:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Vern Buchanan  
United States House of Representatives  
2427 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Buchanan:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
United States House of Representatives  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Castor:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
United States House of Representatives  
215 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Crist:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Val Demings  
United States House of Representatives  
217 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Demings:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ted Deutch  
United States House of Representatives  
2447 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Deutch:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
United States House of Representatives  
404 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Diaz-Balart:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Neal Dunn  
United States House of Representatives  
316 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dunn:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Lois Frankel  
United States House of Representatives  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Frankel:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Matt Gaetz  
United States House of Representatives  
1721 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gaetz:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"  
DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Alcee Hastings  
United States House of Representatives  
2353 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hastings:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Al Lawson  
United States House of Representatives  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lawson:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Brian Mast  
United States House of Representatives  
2182 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mast:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
United States House of Representatives  
114 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mucarsel-Powell:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Stephanie Murphy  
United States House of Representatives  
1710 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"  
DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Bill Posey  
United States House of Representatives  
2150 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Posey:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster**

**Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Francis Rooney  
United States House of Representatives  
120 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rooney:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable John Rutherford  
United States House of Representatives  
1711 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rutherford:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Donna Shalala  
United States House of Representatives  
1320 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Shalala:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Darren Soto  
United States House of Representatives  
1507 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Soto:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ross Spano  
United States House of Representatives  
224 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Spano:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Greg Steube  
United States House of Representatives  
521 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Steube:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Michael Waltz  
United States House of Representatives  
216 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waltz:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
United States House of Representatives  
1114 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wasserman Schultz:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director







**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Daniel Webster  
United States House of Representatives  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Webster:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Frederica Wilson  
United States House of Representatives  
2445 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wilson:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ted Yoho  
United States House of Representatives  
1730 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Yoho:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
**DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties. Separate legislation to implement this measure has also been filed by Congressmen Schneider, Katko, and Cox and we respectfully urge you to co-sponsor this bill.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director









**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 8, 2020

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Senator Rubio:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"  
DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"**  
DELEGAL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 8, 2020

The Honorable Rick Scott  
United States Senate  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Senator Scott:

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, thank you for your efforts to pass the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

As Congress begins work on a fourth relief package, we urge you to consider the following priorities for Florida counties:

**Direct Funding for All Counties:** Provide direct funding to smaller counties that have populations less than 500,000. Under the CARES Act, twelve (12) Florida counties are eligible to receive direct funding from the federal government, while the remaining fifty-five (55) will have to work through a yet-to-be determined state process. Given the unprecedented scale of COVID-19 event and its impact on county resources, funding relief is needed for all Florida counties, irrespective of their size. Accordingly, we implore you to eliminate as many obstacles as possible, including requiring counties to access funds directly through the state.

**Eliminate the Non-Federal Cost-Share for FEMA Reimbursements:** To lessen the financial impact on counties, we encourage Congress to eliminate the non-federal cost share for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement. Such a measure is not unprecedented, as Congress has historically adjusted the cost share requirements for PA funding based on the severity of the event.

**Allow Teleworking as an Eligible Expense Under the FEMA Disaster Declaration:** The Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that social distancing is the primary measure to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To that end, 53 counties in Florida have closed offices that see "in-person" customers. Of those, five (5) require their employees to telecommute from home, while another thirty-one (31) make it optional. These measures are impactful in several ways. First, by lessening the spread of the virus, it reduces the drain on federal resources. Second, by telecommuting, counties can continue to provide essential services that, if not available, can seriously cripple a community. Accordingly, to the extent that counties incur expenses for telecommuting as a result of COVID-19, they should be considered an eligible expense under FEMA's Category B expenses (Emergency Protective Measures). The Florida Division of Emergency Management has determined that such expenses are ineligible under the Stafford Act. We encourage Congress to make this an eligible expense, under certain conditions.





**NICK MADDOX**  
PRESIDENT  
LEON

**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT  
PALM BEACH

**RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
WAKULLA

**LEE CONSTANTINE**  
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
SEMINOLE

**KARSON TURNER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
HENDRY

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"  
DELEGAL**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### **Payroll Tax Credits**

We also ask that you consider adding a provision that was overlooked in H.R. 6201 (*The Families First Coronavirus Response Act*) and H.R. 6201 (*The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act*). Specifically, H.R. 6201 creates paid sick leave and family medical leave requirements for all state and local public agency employers. However, the bill treats private companies and public employers very differently in that only private sector employers will receive a tax credit to offset the costs.

Since counties pay the same federal payroll taxes (i.e., Social Security and Medicare) as private businesses and, importantly, are on the frontline fighting to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 community wide, it is only fair that they qualify for the payroll credits under the new paid sick leave and paid family leave provisions. Accordingly, as Congress works to pass a fourth funding package for COVID-19, we hope that you will support inclusion of this provision to help Florida counties.

Again, thank you for your leadership and all that you do for Florida's counties.

Sincerely,

Virginia "Ginger" Delegal  
FAC Executive Director

