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.
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
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal  
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC 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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC 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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC 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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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

Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC 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:

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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:

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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

Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020  

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.

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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
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC 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.

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Sincerely,

Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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Virginia “Ginger” Delegal
FAC Executive Director
April 9, 2020

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.

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