



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

November 16, 2020

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
U.S. House of Representatives
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
U.S. House of Representatives
2206 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Trone
U.S. House of Representatives
1213 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris
U.S. House of Representatives
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume
U.S. House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Sarbanes
U.S. House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building Washington,
D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
U.S. House of Representatives
431 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation:

With the election behind us, much-needed additional stimulus relief is more urgent and achievable than ever. The fall surge of COVID-19 will continue to place enormous strain on both our healthcare system and our economy. On behalf of all Marylanders, I urge you to set aside partisan politics and prioritize a new stimulus relief bill in the lame duck session.

While the CARES Act—in particular the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)—made a significant difference, it has now been more than 230 days since it was enacted. Back in April, as chairman of the National Governors Association, I secured commitments from the president, vice president, and leaders of the administration to provide significant relief for the states on the front lines of the crisis. I also reached out to leaders of Congress and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to advocate for additional relief. I met with the leaders of the Problem Solvers Caucus to discuss their bipartisan “March to Common Ground” proposal.

When Congress failed to act before the August recess, the states once again were forced to adapt and implement a stopgap unemployment assistance program. When Congress again failed to act before the election, our administration moved forward with a new economic recovery initiative, investing an additional \$250 million from our Rainy Day Fund to help Maryland's job creators and workers. Our team is working as fast as we can to distribute these resources, which includes support for local restaurants and Main Street businesses. On Thursday, I announced an additional \$70 million in CARES Act funding to help protect the health and safety of our residents. We appreciate any assistance you can provide in urging counties and local jurisdictions to match our investments by utilizing their remaining CARES Act funding.

Fortunately, Maryland is currently experiencing a stronger economic recovery than most states. We were able to keep more than 70 percent of our economy open throughout the height of the crisis, and all businesses have been able to safely reopen. We have now added and regained nearly 200,000 jobs since our recovery began. However, there are increasing indications that our national recovery is stalling as we confront another surge of the virus. Washington's failure to provide additional stimulus relief is having a devastating impact. States remain in the worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, with record shortfalls projected. We can and will continue to do more on the state level, but without a new injection of stimulus relief from Washington, the situation will continue to deteriorate for families and small businesses.

After all the political gamesmanship and division of recent months, I hope you will agree that this election has provided a mandate for cooperation. Yet, leaders in both houses of Congress have already gone right back to digging in their heels, and no common ground appears in sight. The overwhelming majority of Americans want us to move forward together. What they desperately want is for elected officials to work on bipartisan, common sense solutions to the serious problems we face. My sincere hope is that we won't let them down.

Thank you for your continued leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor