

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

As the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania decides how to disburse funds allocated by Congress under the CARES Act, we are writing to ask that you consider the unique needs of rural communities and request guidance on your office's plans for considering funding requests from local governments impacted by COVID-19.

The CARES Act established the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund to provide for payments to state, local, and tribal governments, including approximately \$4.9 billion for Pennsylvania. Under the law's distribution formula, Pennsylvania's seven counties with populations greater than 500,000 were eligible to apply directly to the Treasury Department for roughly 20 percent of the funding, or approximately \$1.027 billion. The remaining 80 percent of the funding, or more than \$3.9 billion, will be left to the Commonwealth to cover qualified unanticipated expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19.

As your office employs CARES Act funding to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, we ask that you give full and fair consideration to every Pennsylvanian, including those in rural communities which lack the resources and health care capacity of other areas of Pennsylvania. COVID-19 has required many rural communities to expend unanticipated funds to keep pace with virus response efforts, including increasing supplies of personal protective equipment, bolstering emergency management resources, and ramping up technological capacity for employees to work remotely while continuing to provide residents with essential health and public safety services. These costs have added stress to already financially strapped rural health and emergency centers and local budgets.

Given these challenges, we ask the following questions to which we request a response in writing:

- 1) What COVID-19-related costs does the Commonwealth plan to cover with CARES Act funds?
- 2) Will your office make available an application process for local governments to apply directly to the Commonwealth for CARES Act funding, and if so, when will that process be made public?

Finally, regarding your letter dated April 2, 2020, Pennsylvanians must first have a clear answer to these questions and understand how the Commonwealth will disburse the \$3.9 billion in CARES Act funding before their representatives engage in further spending discussions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. As all levels of government continue to combat the public health and economic effects of COVID-19, we look forward to working with you to ensure that the needs of all Pennsylvanians are addressed.

Sincerely,



FRED KELLER
Member of Congress



GLENN "GT" THOMPSON
Member of Congress



MIKE KELLY
Member of Congress



JOHN JOYCE, M.D.
Member of Congress



SCOTT PERRY
Member of Congress



GUY RESCHENTHALER
Member of Congress



DANIEL P. MEUSER
Member of Congress



LLOYD SMUCKER
Member of Congress