March 4, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

The nation’s governors applaud the U.S. House of Representatives for passage of the “Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020” (H.R. 6074) and urge the U.S. Senate to take swift action and pass the emergency supplemental request, in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

As the nation’s governors, the health and well-being of our residents is our primary concern. States and localities are at the forefront of public health crises, and COVID-19 is no different. As the situation evolves, states are incurring escalating costs in assisting the federal response to COVID-19. It is imperative that we have adequate resources and funding to respond to this rapidly developing public health emergency. Any appropriation must include the allocation of new federal funding for preventing and responding to COVID-19, backfill states for costs already incurred, and ensure that any monies transferred from existing programs be replenished.

Congress must assure states and territories that necessary resources will be provided to address the multitude of costs associated with a public health emergency. These include but are not limited to travel screening, isolation and quarantine related activities, transportation, lodging, increased staffing, National Guard personnel, testing and monitoring patients, public outreach, supplies, equipment, schools, and wrap-around services.

States and territories are relying on federal dollars to support state public health efforts to prevent and reduce the impact of COVID-19. We appreciate the state-federal coordination on the response thus far and look forward to working with both the Administration and Congress as the nation tackles this public health threat.

Sincerely,

Governor Larry Hogan
Maryland

Governor Andrew Cuomo
New York
Governor Kay Ivey
Alabama

Governor Asa Hutchinson
Arkansas

Governor Jared Polis
Colorado

Governor John Carney
Delaware

Governor David Ige
Hawaii

Governor Eric Holcomb
Indiana

Governor John Bel Edwards
Louisiana

Governor Charlie Baker
Massachusetts

Governor Doug Ducey
Arizona

Governor Gavin Newsom
California

Governor Ned Lamont
Connecticut

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero
Guam

Governor JB Pritzker
Illinois

Governor Kim Reynolds
Iowa

Governor Janet Mills
Maine

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
Michigan
Governor Tim Walz
Minnesota

Governor Mike Parson
Missouri

Governor Steve Bullock
Montana

Governor Steve Sisolak
Nevada

Governor Chris Sununu
New Hampshire

Governor Phil Murphy
New Jersey

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
New Mexico

Governor Ralph Torres
Northern Mariana Islands

Governor Mike DeWine
Ohio

Governor Kevin Stitt
Oklahoma

Governor Kate Brown
Oregon

Governor Tom Wolf
Pennsylvania

Governor Kristi Noem
South Dakota

Governor Bill Lee
Tennessee

Governor Gary Herbert
Utah
Governor Phil Scott
Vermont

Governor Ralph Northam
Virginia

Governor Jay Inslee
Washington

Governor Tony Evers
Wisconsin