



February 3, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), we strongly urge Congress to provide a minimum of \$350 billion in supplemental assistance to state and local governments in any future stimulus package enacted in response to the COVID pandemic. These funds will ensure state and local governments have the resources they need to weather the pandemic by providing continuity of essential services and support to the citizens and businesses in their community.

SIIA is the only professional organization connecting more than 700 data, financial information, education technology, specialized content and publishing, and health technology companies. Our diverse members manage the global financial markets, develop software that solves today's challenges through technology, provide critical information that helps inform global businesses large and small, and innovate for better health care and personal wellness outcomes.

Historically, the relationship between the federal government and the states has ensured that Americans and their businesses have the resources and critical public services they need to be successful. This relationship has proven crucial in the national response to the COVID pandemic. The pandemic has caused significant financial distress to state and local governments in lost revenue, hampering the economic security of Americans and impacting their access to needed safety net programs, educational opportunities, and public safety and security resources. The full impact on state and local budgets is yet to be seen but experts predict strained administrative resources, resulting from significant budgetary gaps from a decreased tax base, and other revenue-generating public authorities.

On behalf of SIIA and our members, we strongly support congressional action to provide additional, needed resources to state and local governments to ensure budgetary solvency, a continuity of educational services, and expanded access to critical infrastructure such as broadband, IT services, cybersecurity infrastructure, and other vital systems. The strongest possible investment in state and local communities is a necessary part of COVID pandemic relief efforts and should be included in any stimulus or relief package negotiated by Congress.

Thank you for your work to ensure that Americans have the resources they need in this unprecedented time. Should you have any questions, please contact Carl Schonander at cschonander@siia.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Joseph", written in a cursive style.

Jeff Joseph
President

CC: Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, House Committee on Oversight and Reform;
Ranking Member James Comer, House Committee on Oversight and Reform