

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 4, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

We write to urge the inclusion of H.R. 5735, the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act, in any end-of-year legislative package.

H.R. 5735 provides much-needed flexibility in the administration of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) included in the American Rescue Plan (ARPA). The bill would neither mandate funds be used in any particular way nor increase overall federal appropriations.

There is widespread support for H.R. 5735, which currently has 163 bipartisan cosponsors. The Senate version of the bill, S. 3011, passed by unanimous consent on October 19, 2021. Further, the legislation is supported by dozens of stakeholders, including organizations representing state and local governments.

The Department of the Treasury recently notified SLFRF recipients that the Department is shutting down its call and email assistance center, where recipients could request and obtain guidance regarding the use of SLFRF funds. H.R. 5735 would allow Treasury to continue providing this critical support by allowing the reallocation of previously-appropriated funds to staff these vital call and email centers. Ensuring the continual operation of this program is critical to provide local government grantees with personalized assistance from the Department of the Treasury to answer questions about – and ensure compliance with – the SLFRF program. Without H.R. 5735, timely guidance and responses to questions from grantees will slow, causing delays in the deployment of money into communities. And smaller cities and local governments, who already have limited resources, will be most adversely affected.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure states and localities have the flexibility and guidance needed to utilize all ARPA funds.

Sincerely,

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