



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

March 19, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate

RE: City of Seattle's Priorities for future COVID-19 funding packages

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

Thank you for your continued leadership as the City of Seattle works to address COVID-19, one of the most serious public health crises our country has faced. I want to especially extend my gratitude for passing the "Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Supplemental Appropriations Act" and the "Families First Coronavirus Response Act." Both of these important legislative packages - along with President Trump's National Emergency Declaration - will provide critical resources and administrative flexibilities to address the public health and economic crisis facing our nation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier this week, a report was released which showed King County's economy is experiencing "an economic shock that will take many months and beyond to recover from," with impacts likely to result in wage reductions or at least temporary layoffs in about **40% of the approximately 2 million jobs in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties**, according to the study by the Seattle-based research firm Community Attributes Inc. (CAI). More than a week ago, our state unemployment office unemployment claims surged 150% and the losses of income could easily exceed \$1 billion in a short time.

While I know there will be a series of actions taken over the weeks and months to come, our situation in Seattle is in desperate need of federal resources and relief for workers. We need your leadership to create and implement a bold New Deal for workers.

Cities like Seattle, Everett, and Tacoma have been on the frontlines of our country's greatest challenge since World War II. I urge you to negotiate legislation to address our critical funding and regulatory needs, and consider our priority needs in the upcoming third supplemental COVID-19 package. We also need your voices to urge the President to issue a Major Disaster Declaration, which goes beyond the current national emergency declaration to allow more support for the individuals and communities most impacted.

As you know, COVID-19 is spreading rapidly across the globe and the number of infected individuals in Washington state and the United States will continue to rise unless drastic measures are undertaken.

As of March 19, 2020, there were 693 confirmed cases and 60 confirmed deaths in King County with 1,376 cases statewide. Epidemiologist modeling show the lack of testing has masked the true number of cases and we actually likely have thousands of infected individuals in our region.

We know that we are just in the early days of this global pandemic with millions of lives in our country at risk.

World War II was the test of the last generation, and they met it with unified courage, grit, and action. This is our test.

Leadership at the federal level is imperative. We believe that you must first prioritize workers that have been devastated by this public health emergency. This needs to include direct assistance for every household, expanded unemployment to cover all workers impacted, expansion of health care benefits including Medicaid, emergency child care assistance, national paid sick leave, rental assistance, mortgage relief, and debt freeze for student loans.

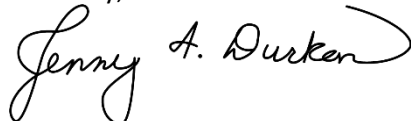
The following represent some of the most pressing needs that our City and our residents are facing. We request urgent action on the following issues:

- **Public Health and Health Care Systems:**
 - Accelerated manufacturing of all necessary medical equipment;
 - Redistribution of SNS to states in critical need of PPE, which are currently going to states with limited cases;
 - Urge the administration to activate Navy Hospital Ship, USS Mercy, to the Port of Seattle to help relieve pressure on local hospitals and serve non-COVID patients; and
 - Assistance for public health and health care systems through medical surge support and resources.
- **FEMA Assistance with Emergency Protective Measures:**
 - Urge the administration to approve the Governor's Declaration of a National Disaster in the State of Washington, opening up access to critical assistance such as Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits.
 - Waive cost share requirements for all FEMA assistance;
 - Make the full FEMA Individual Assistance Program available within the declaration; and
 - Assistance of support, staff, and resources with assessment recovery (including re-distribution needs of congregate populations), isolation and quarantine locations for both unsheltered populations and those who have nowhere else to go. We are preparing space for thousands of individuals and do not have the capacity to operate these facilities without FEMA personnel and tents.

- **Housing on Homelessness Needs:**
 - Increase funding for operations and maintenance of public housing and affordable housing that face reduced rental income and additional staffing and cleaning needs;
 - Rental assistance to support tenants with reduced income and for property owners with rental income short falls; and
 - Increase in Emergency Shelter Grants and homelessness prevention.
- **SBA loans:**
 - Offer 0% loans and waive/expedite the requirement that businesses need to get rejected for a conventional loan first; and
 - Make all loans to employers forgivable if they are able to retain their employees.
- **CDBG/CDBG-DR:**
 - Increase flexibility of program, including waiving all requirements and lifting the public assistance cap.
- **Direct Assistance to cities across the country:**
 - Distribute \$250 billion in flexible, emergency fiscal assistance directly to cities by formula as quickly as possible. This will empower myself and the nation's mayors to immediately take the bold actions necessary to protect the American public from both the pandemic and the subsequent economic fallout.
- **Assistance to Critical Industries in our Area**
 - Immediate and medium to long-term federal assistance to the employees and employers of our region's top industries including U.S. aviation, cruise, hospitality and tourism

Thank you for your leadership during this time of national crisis, and for your consideration of the City of Seattle's pressing needs at this time. At the front line of this national crisis, we stand ready to engage with you as legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle