

November 30, 2020

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL URGES CONGRESS TO PASS EXTENSION FOR CARES ACT FUNDING
AS PANDEMIC IMPACTS ECONOMY**

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today joined a coalition of 49 attorneys general that [sent a letter](#) urging Congress to extend the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding until the end of 2021.

“As states grapple with rising coronavirus infection rates, governments, nonprofits and businesses rely on CARES Act funding to continue serving their communities,” Raoul said. “I urge Congress to extend the deadline for eligible CARES Act spending to ensure that these vital programs and services continue throughout the pandemic.”

Several measures to extend the spending deadline are currently pending, including bipartisan legislation in both the House and Senate. Raoul and the attorneys general are urging Congress to pass one of these measures to give states and communities additional time to utilize the precious COVID-relief resources.

COVID-19 has negatively impacted nearly every facet of American society. In anticipation of unprecedented costs and economic disruption stemming from the pandemic, Congress passed the CARES Act in March. The move provided more than \$2 trillion in economic stimulus to state and local governments in an effort to combat the impacts of the pandemic.

One of the restrictions placed on the funding, however, limits the money’s use to expenses incurred between March 1 and Dec. 30.

“This time frame likely made sense in late March when the CARES Act was passed, but we have learned a great deal about COVID-19 in the past seven months,” the letter states. “Among other things, we know that the pandemic will continue to challenge communities well beyond Dec. 30, 2020 – a deadline that now seems unreasonable.”

State and local communities continue to experience COVID-related disruptions. To date in Illinois, public health officials have reported 726,304 cases, including 12,278 deaths in all 102 counties. By extending the deadline for CARES Act funding, communities in Illinois and nationwide will be able to access these important resources as the pandemic continues.

Joining Raoul in sending the letter are the attorneys general of Alaska, American Samoa, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.



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The Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader

U.S. House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Richard Neal
Chairman

Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader

U.S. Senate
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader

U.S. Senate
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Kevin Brady
Ranking Member

Ways and Means Committee
1139 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

Thank you for everything you have done thus far in providing critical relief to communities reeling from the health, societal, and economic effects of COVID-19. We are grateful for the federal support, but we write today to ask that Congress consider extending the spending-related deadline for relief funding so Americans can receive the full benefit of this assistance.

COVID-19 has impacted every facet of American society. In anticipation of unprecedented costs and economic disruption stemming from the pandemic, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which President Trump signed into law. This legislation established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), which provides financial assistance to communities for expenses incurred due to COVID-19.

One of the restrictions placed on the funding, however, limits the money's use to expenses incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020. This time frame likely made sense in late March when the CARES Act was passed, but we have learned a great deal about COVID-19 in the past seven months. Among other things, we know that the pandemic will continue to challenge communities well beyond December 30, 2020 – a deadline that now seems unreasonable.

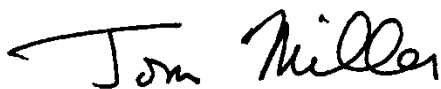
With COVID-19 cases rising daily in much of the country and many states still under a health emergency declaration, we urge Congress to amend the CRF program to allow state and local governments to spend the funding at least until December 31, 2021.

In some states, Attorneys General are being called upon to help distribute CARES funding, a role that has given us firsthand knowledge of the difficulties posed by the current deadline.

For example, the Ohio Attorney General's Office is administering a grant program providing reimbursement for eligible COVID-19 expenses to rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, and child advocacy centers. Establishing standards and procedures for a grant program took time, thus reducing the time that these organizations have had to apply for and receive reimbursements. All the while, these groups' need for COVID-related assistance has grown only more substantial, a demand that is not likely to subside anytime soon.

The CARES Act is a program that is delivering critical resources to local governments, businesses, nonprofits, and families. We collectively thank you for your leadership on this issue and hope that you will carefully consider our request to extend the deadline for eligible expenses through 2021.

Yours,



Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General



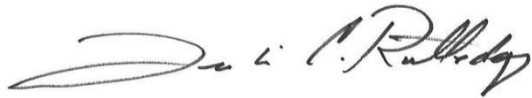
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Ohio Attorney General



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Acting Alaska Attorney General



Mitzi Jessop Taase
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Leslie Rutledge
Arkansas Attorney General



Xavier Becerra
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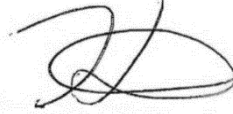
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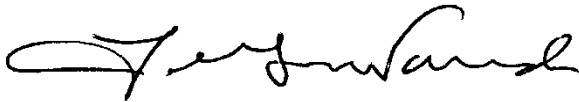
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Kwame Raoul
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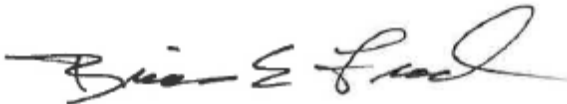
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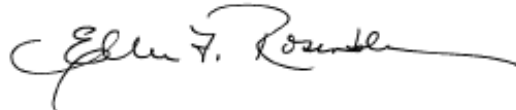
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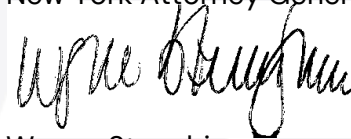
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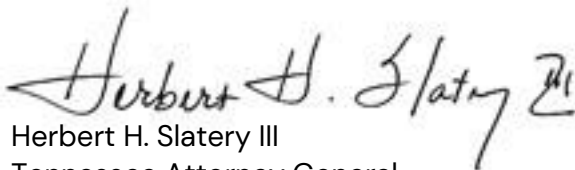
Mike Hunter
Oklahoma Attorney General



Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General



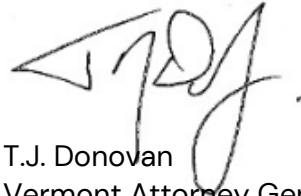
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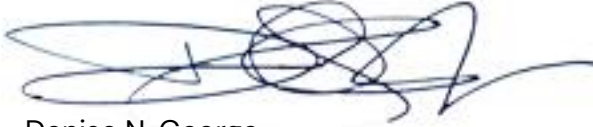
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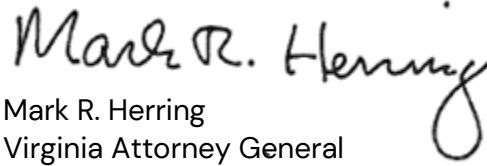
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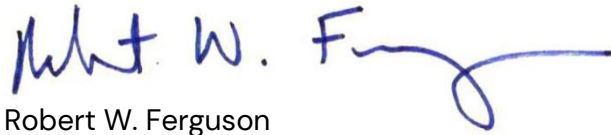
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