

**LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES
ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES (METRO CITIES)
COALITION OF GREATER MINNESOTA CITIES
MN ASSOCIATION OF SMALL CITIES
MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION**

June 17, 2020

Dear Chair Carlson and Members, House Ways and Means Committee:

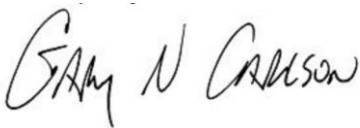
Our organizations, representing the 853 cities in Minnesota, are writing to express our strong support for a distribution of \$841.4 million from the state's share of the Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (FCRF) to local governments, as proposed in SF 47-Rosen/HF 128-Marquart. This amount represents 45% of the state's share of the FCRF, according to federal guidance for calculating this share that was released on May 28, 2020. The federal law governing the FCRF recommends that states share 45% of their allocation of these federal funds with local governments.

City organizations have consistently supported a distribution of funds that is equitably distributed among cities and counties. While we recognize that the distribution formula in the bill does not provide full equity for cities, we recognize that compromises on the structure of the bill were required and support the direct distribution of \$841.4 million as provided in the legislation. We also support language in the bill that allows this funding to be used for local COVID-19 expenses as identified in the federal guidance.

As you consider this legislation, please keep in mind that modifications to local services and operations to prevent and address COVID-19 are occurring for cities across the state. Many cities have undertaken significant, often costly adjustments to local services to ensure public health and safety during this crisis. Your support and prompt action on this bill are appreciated and important to ensure cities can use these funds within the abbreviated timeframe provided in federal law.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,



Gary Carlson
League of Minnesota Cities



Patricia Nauman
Association of Metropolitan Municipalities (Metro
(Cities))



Bradley Peterson
Coalition of Greater MN Cities



Thomas Poul
Municipal Legislative Commission



Cap O'Rourke
MN Association of Small Cities