

May 8, 2020

His Excellency Christopher T. Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

Thank you for the work that you are doing on behalf of the state of New Hampshire during this trying time. As members of the Legislative Advisory Board of the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery, we write today to share our Funding Allocation Proposal requested by your office for the \$1.25 billion grant received from the State-Local Coronavirus Relief Fund in the federal CARES Act.

Since the Legislative Advisory Board was established, we have solicited testimony from state agencies, stakeholder and advocacy groups, nonprofits, businesses, municipalities, and more. While it is clear to us that the need and demand for the State-Local Coronavirus Relief Fund far exceeds the available resources, our proposal compliments additional federal funding sources to provide the most relief possible. Nearly twenty hours of public testimony informs the proposal before you; we thank you in advance for your thoughtful review and consideration of these recommendations.

In some areas, our proposal expands the groundwork of the Executive Branch, for instance, \$XXXX in hospital relief funds and \$XXXX in funds for other healthcare providers - both of which should be disbursed immediately to address the financial impact those organizations are facing because of COVID-19.

As we begin reopening our economy, the biggest impediment to getting people back to work is access to safe, reliable, and affordable childcare. We propose an allocation of \$XXXX for childcare. It is critical that these funds are delivered as quickly as possible to shore up childcare, which is the underpinning of the rest of New Hampshire's economy.

Our proposal also expands on the specialized funding streams established by the federal government to fill in gaps, including an allocation of \$XXXX for business relief funding to be disbursed through the Business Finance Authority to help small and medium sized New Hampshire businesses surmount the impact to their businesses and employees through grants, and loan guarantees. These funds would prioritize assistance to smaller businesses that did not receive PPP funding, or did not qualify for PPP funding due to their legal organization, and help cover the costs incurred to reopen safely. An allocation of \$5,000,000 is also recommended for

agriculture relief to be distributed immediately to provide assistance to farmers and fishers suffering COVID-19 related losses.

Our proposal sets aside \$XXXX in funding to support New Hampshire's nonprofit sector, including a \$5,000,000 grant specifically for the New Hampshire Food Bank to restock depleted shelves due to increased demand and decline in donations and to soften the blow of increased food prices. These grants will help nonprofits that are providing critical services during the pandemic while also experiencing difficulty fundraising. In an effort to more expediently disburse funds, we suggested these funds be disbursed through the CDFA and the Charitable Foundation to supplement the funds they have already established to assist non-profits.

We know New Hampshire's public education and higher education infrastructure has been deeply impacted by the pandemic and the necessary transition to remote learning. The GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board recommends the following allocations to address the financial impact of this transition: \$XXXX to the University System of New Hampshire; \$XXXX to the Community College System of New Hampshire; \$XXXX to private colleges and universities; and \$XXXX to K-12 public schools.

Perhaps most important, our spending proposal also stabilizes the state budget by covering all allocations and expenditures made to date related to COVID-19 and carves out \$XXXX in reserve funds that can be distributed in the future as additional needs, and potentially additional federal funds, become available. This will allow us to review the efficacy of the recovery and relief funds spent immediately and make additional allocations as needed.

In every sector, people are doing the best they can under unimaginable circumstances, but the need for financial assistance has been made loud and clear. Fortunately, thanks to the leadership of our congressional delegation, New Hampshire has received critical funding to help our state combat COVID-19 and recover from the health and economic impacts of this pandemic. The GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board proposal is based on public input and focused on real relief for Granite Staters--for families, communities, schools, businesses, nonprofits, farmers and fishers.

Attached to this letter, please find a spreadsheet detailing steps for implementing our recommendation. We are happy to provide you with clarification on the proposal and answer any questions you or any of the members of your staff may have regarding its contents. While this is our first proposal, we are committed to continuing to meet to evaluate the efficacy of relief funds and consider additional allocations as needed, as well as any further federal funds that may be allocated.

We appreciate your consideration and once again thank you for your work and dedication to the Granite State.

Sincerely,

Donna Soucy /s/
Senate President

Stephen Shurtleff /s/
Speaker of the House

Chuck Morse /s/
Senate Minority Leader
GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board Chair

Dick Hinch /s/
House Minority Leader

Lou D'Allesandro /s/
Senate Finance Chair

Mary Jane Wallner /s/
House Finance Chair

John Reagan /s/
Senate Finance Committee Member

Erin Hennessey /s/
House Finance Committee Member