

May 11, 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, \$100,000,000 in hospital relief funds, \$40,000,000 in funds for other health care providers, and \$20,000,000 in relief funds for nursing home and long-term care facilities - all of which should be disbursed immediately as grants 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 \$25,000,000 for childcare, including daycare and after school care. These funds should be administered by an outside organization like the CDFA or Community Loan Fund to enable expedient delivery 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 \$100,000,000 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 or did not qualify for PPP funding 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 \$30,000,000 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 CDFR and the Charitable Foundation to supplement the funds they have already established to assist non-profits.

We know New Hampshire's 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: \$10,000,000 to the University System of New Hampshire; \$5,000,000 to the Community College System of New Hampshire; and \$5,000,000 to private colleges and universities.

The GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board also suggests expanding the pool of eligible workers included in the Frontline Worker Stipend Program to include child protection workers who are conducting face-to-face meetings with clients.

Perhaps most important, our spending proposal also stabilizes the state budget by covering all allocations and expenditures made to date by the Executive Branch related to COVID-19 in the amount of \$255,024,274 and carves out \$649,975,726 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.

Moving forward, the GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board will be paying particular attention to the hospital and health care relief funds, business and nonprofit relief funds, and higher education support as sectors in particular that may need additional infusions of support. Additionally, we will be soliciting testimony about the potential need for support relative to housing and homelessness, expanded testing capacity, and mental health support for frontline workers. The Advisory Board will keep your office apprised of additional recommendations we have for the best use of these federal CARES Act funds.

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 and yourself, 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 recommendations of the GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board are bipartisan and unanimous; our 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

