

County Auditors Association of Ohio  
Ohio Clerk of Courts Association  
County Commissioners Association of Ohio  
Ohio State Coroners Association  
County Engineers Association of Ohio



Ohio Judicial Conference  
Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association  
Ohio Records Association  
Buckeye State Sheriffs Association  
County Treasurers Association of Ohio

[www.ohiocountygovernment.org](http://www.ohiocountygovernment.org)

July 30, 2020

**Senator Rob Portman**  
**448 Russell Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Senator Portman:

I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Council of Elected Officials (OCCO) to express our support for Congressional action to provide additional aid for counties and other local governments, as well as increased flexibility in use of Coronavirus Relief Fund resources. OCCO is an organization that unites the associations representing county elected officials and judges, in order to promote sound, efficient and fiscally responsible government. OCCO serves as a forum to provide information about issues of importance to county elected officials and allows members the opportunity to work together on legislative issues of mutual concern.

Counties provide front-line responses to the pandemic by delivering public health and a public safety services. We appreciate Congressional action to provide money to states and local governments in the CARES Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund, but the eligible uses for that money are not flexible enough for counties to sufficiently respond to the pandemic. CARES Act money can't be used to replace lost revenue, which is becoming a more critical long run issue as the pandemic continues with no end in sight.

We are encouraged that Senate Majority Leader has unveiled a new legislative proposal to combat the coronavirus, and we are encouraged that the proposal allows some limited use of CARES Act funds for revenue replacement. On the other hand, we believe that the proposal should clarify that the funds may be used to keep previously budgeted public safety and public health employees on the payroll. We are also disappointed that this proposal contains no new direct and flexible assistance for counties. We need additional aid to keep front-line county employees on the job.

We urge you to make new aid available to counties of all sizes. The aid should be flexible and allocated based on population. Each county is different, and it strengthens our intergovernmental partnership to allow local governments to decide how best to spend relief dollars. We need a strong federal-state-local partnership to address the far-reaching health, safety and economic impacts of this crisis.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your continued leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Coleman, P.E., P.S.  
President, OCCO  
Logan County Engineer

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July 30, 2020

**Senator Sherrod Brown**  
**503 Hart Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Senator Brown:

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