

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write today to urge you to expeditiously grant New York a waiver that provides 100 percent federal funding for all FEMA emergency work in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Any eligible work paid for through the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) should be paid for by the federal government, not New Yorkers.

On March 13, President Trump issued an Emergency Declaration for New York, as well as for 55 other states, territories, and the District of Columbia. On March 17, Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York requested a Major Disaster Declaration (MDD), the first in the country, to aid the state's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. On March 20, President Trump granted the first-in-the-nation COVID-19 MDD for New York after a strong push from the New York Congressional Delegation. Both of these declarations allow New York State to receive reimbursement for eligible work from the DRF. On March 25, the Senate passed H.R.748, the CARES Act, which more than doubled the DRF by adding \$45 billion. The March 20 MDD now grants New York State access to Public Assistance, Category B – Emergency Protective Measures and the Crisis Counselling program for individuals. While this is an incredibly important step in combating the COVID-19 outbreak, this assistance comes at a 75 percent federal and 25 percent state cost share.

As of April 16, the New York State Department of Health reported over 222,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New York State, with over 117,000 in New York City alone. Tragically, our home state has already experienced at least 12,192 deaths from this outbreak and experts anticipate this number will continue to rise.

With New York State at the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States, it is imperative that New York receive all the federal resources available to save lives and protect public health and safety. The costs associated with responding to this public health crisis are astronomical. New York State expects to request billions of additional funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the DRF in the coming months. If New York State must shoulder the cost of even 25 percent of this massive bill, it could deal a devastating blow to New York's vibrant economy.

As New York continues to address the escalating outbreak of COVID-19, we urge you to expeditiously grant a waiver that adjusts the current DRF cost-share to provide 100 percent federal funding for New York State's response to this outbreak. We thank you for your time and attention to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our staff members with any questions.

Sincerely,



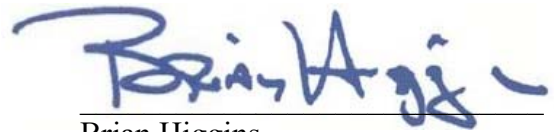
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



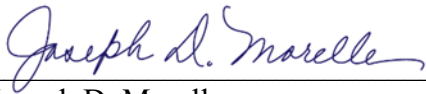
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



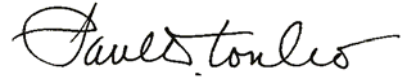
Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



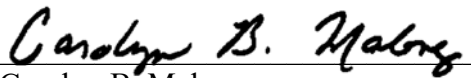
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



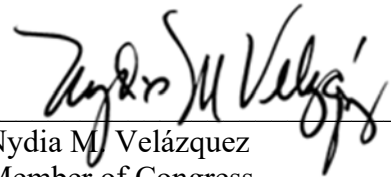
Max Rose
Member of Congress



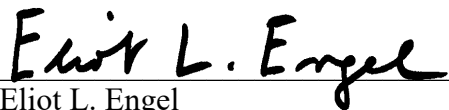
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



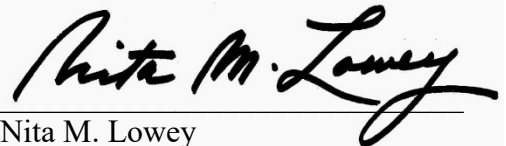
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



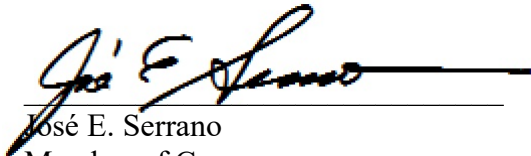
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



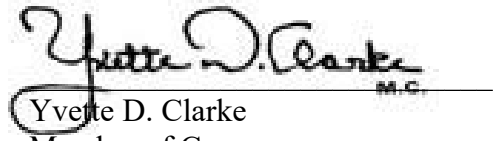
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



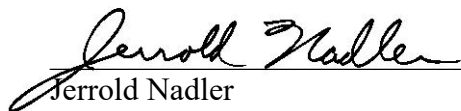
José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



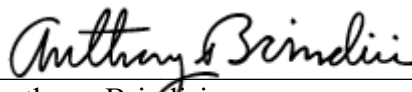
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



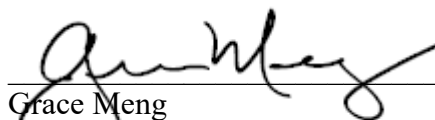
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



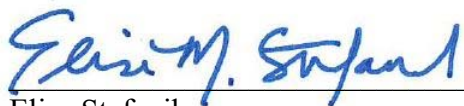
Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



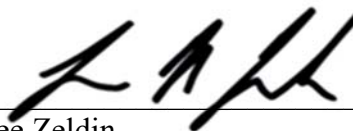
Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



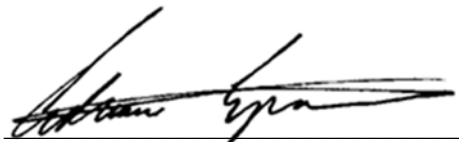
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States of America

The Honorable Peter Gaynor, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Honorable Thomas Von Essen, Regional Administrator of FEMA Region 2

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York

The Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York City