



Illinois State Association of Counties

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) is committed to representing the interests of Illinois counties regardless of their size or geographic location.

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES). We are appreciative to Congress and the President for passing and enacting this critical legislation into law.

The CARES Act includes several provisions that provide aid and assistance to local governments, including counties. One of the provisions within CARES is a \$150 billion state stabilization fund that will provide direct financial aid to local governments with more than 500,000 residents for expenses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. This direct aid will benefit eligible counties, but unfortunately does not help local governments with lesser populations. In Illinois, the direct aid will go to five counties while providing no direct aid to the remaining 97 counties regardless of their financial exposure and need.

ISACo respectfully requests that direct aid to counties with 500,000 or fewer residents be included within future federal legislation intended to address costs associated with the emergency response to COVID-19. With responsibilities over local public health services (including public hospitals), public safety and protecting vulnerable populations, counties are on the frontlines of the struggle to contain the spread of the pandemic while in some cases treating those contracting the virus.

Once again, ISACo requests your support for the inclusion of direct financial aid to counties with populations at or below 500,000 residents for costs associated with the emergency response to COVID-19. Please feel welcome to contact me at 217/836-9164 or jmccoy@isacoil.org if I can answer any questions or otherwise be of service. Thanks.

Respectfully,

Joe McCoy
Executive Director