



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2020

The Honorable Steve Mnuchin
Secretary
Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jovita Carranza
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street NW
Washington, DC 20416

RE: Overtime and Hazard Pay Protections for First Responders

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza,

I appreciate your efforts to quickly implement the provisions of the CARES Act during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the ongoing nature of this crisis requires additional assistance, particularly as state and local governments face increasing costs and decreasing tax revenues due to the emerging recession. One area of critical importance is the continued operation of our first responder services, which is why I urge your full and fair consideration to allow local governments to use resources from the state stabilization fund to cover the overtime and hazard pay of first responders.

First responders are at the front-line of the COVID-19 pandemic response. They are responding to historically high 9-11 call volume, often without the necessary personal protective equipment. They are in routine physical contact with potential infected persons and are directly exposed to the danger of the crisis. Thus, without surprise, many first responders have contracted the virus, been obligated to self-quarantine, and been thereby removed from the workforce. This has resulted in widespread staff shortages and an increasing pressure for first responders to work extended hours.

Protecting first responders' ability to work is critical to public health and safety. This is why I urge your full and fair consideration to allow local governments to use resources from the state stabilization fund to cover the overtime and hazard pay of first responders. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Soto".

Darren Soto
Member of Congress