

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 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 Local Essential Service Employees

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 local essential services.

Countless public sector employees are putting themselves at risk to perform essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes our first responders (fire, police, EMS), 9-11 operators, postal workers, teachers and school administrators, transportation and utilities services, and countless others. These people are required to continue their service on behalf of the public and are directly exposed to the danger of the crisis.

Thus, without surprise, postal workers and transportation service employees have some of the highest numbers of those who have contracted COVID-19. This results in obligated self-quarantine, removal from the workforce, widespread staff shortages, and an increasing pressure for essential service employees to work extended hours.

We must protect these public employees' ability to work. They have been deemed essential for a reason. 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 local essential service public sector employees.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hasting
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Al Lawson
Member of Congress