

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Governor Ron DeSantis
Office of Governor - State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
Dear Governor DeSantis,

Thank you for your efforts to protect the citizens of Florida during the COVID-19 pandemic. As members of the Florida Congressional delegation, we urge you to immediately release the remaining Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to *all* Florida counties, cities, towns.

While the CARES Act gave jurisdictions over 500,000 in population the ability to apply directly to the U.S. Department of Treasury for CRF funds, it was Congressional intent that jurisdictions of all sizes benefit from the \$150 billion CRF.

Under the CARES Act formula, only 13 Florida political jurisdictions can apply directly for CRF resources. So, the vast majority of Florida's 67 counties, cities, towns are relying on the State of Florida to immediately release CRF funding. The CRF is a vital lifeline for maintaining uninterrupted operation of local government and services and purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

We also stress that this is a time sensitive matter. The CARES Act money needs to be spent by December 31, 2020, and cities and counties are in desperate need of these resources now. Local governments must pay for incurred and mounting COVID-19 related expenditures, as well as establish programs to distribute CARES Act money to businesses and nonprofits in their municipal boundaries (within the parameters and restrictions dictated by the CARES Act) to ensure their ongoing operations.

Accordingly, we ask that you consider timely releasing the remaining CRF resources to *all* Florida counties, cities, towns. We further request that you provide us with status updates and share your disbursement plan with us so we can continue to keep our constituents informed. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of our request, consistent with applicable statutes and regulations. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



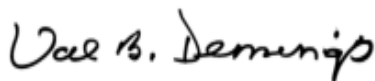
Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

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Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Val B. Demings
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



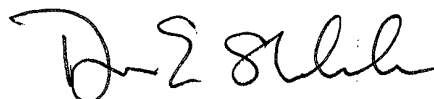
Al Lawson, Jr.
Member of Congress



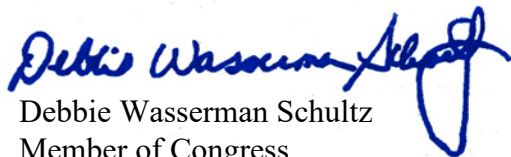
Stephanie N. Murphy
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress