[Date]

[name]

[address]

**Re: Budget Reconciliation Legislation – Support for Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund**

Dear Representative [name]:

On behalf of [county name], I write to convey our enthusiastic support for provisions of the House budget reconciliation bill that would provide direct federal financial support for California’s counties. As the chamber prepares to consider this desperately needed COVID-19 recovery package, I urge you to vote in favor of the legislation.

As you know, the coronavirus pandemic continues to have devastating impacts in our county and communities across the state. Even as long-awaited vaccines are finally coming to market, thousands of new COVID-19 cases are reported daily and the state is approaching 50,000 total fatalities. As the frontline providers of local public health services – including contact tracing and disease investigation, testing, and large-scale vaccination efforts – counties are facing a daunting task in the months ahead as we work to mitigate and ultimately end the COVID-19 crisis. [add any county COVID-19 statistics/details]

Unfortunately, the immense scale of the pandemic and growing community needs continue to far outstrip our local resources. While previous state and federal support and emergency program funding has aided counties in pandemic response efforts, public health and other safety net program costs continue to mount and key local revenue sources remain severely constrained due to the persisting economic downturn. In addition to meeting unprecedented demands in the area of public health, California’s counties are also responding to an increased need for other essential safety net services that Californians depend upon, including those that are geared to our state’s most vulnerable populations.

[add details about county pandemic response and budget impacts]

As you’re aware, the pending budget reconciliation legislation includes $350 billion in fiscal aid to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to help with ongoing COVID-19 response. We’re extremely pleased that the bill would dedicate $65.1 billion of this funding to counties of ***all sizes*** and that jurisdictions could use funds in a flexible manner, including to replace lost revenues and to address the ongoing negative economic consequences of COVID-19. Our county is estimated to receive [insert funding amount that can be found at <https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/state-and-local-coronavirus-fiscal-recovery-funds#table>], funding that is critically needed to effectively respond to the public health crisis, preserve the local safety net, and meet the increased demand for the county-administered services that hold local communities together.

For these reasons, [county name] strongly supports the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and respectfully requests your support for this critically important bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Name]