DEAR MEMBERS OF THE OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION:

As a bipartisan coalition of mayors in over two dozen of Ohio's largest cities, we are urging swift action and bipartisan support for a recovery package that provides direct, flexible fiscal assistance to frontline communities. We understand there are numerous proposals being suggested and difficult funding decisions to be made, but we were heartened to see that the January Biden Administration outline included $350 billion for state and local governments.

As you know, our communities have been supporting critical aspects of our national response to this pandemic for many months, while also dealing with uncertain fiscal conditions and significant revenue reductions. Many of our cities have furloughed workers, shrunk their workforce through attrition, cancelled police and fire recruitment efforts, and frozen capital budgets that build community infrastructure—all while absorbing additional expenses to respond to COVID, delivering essential services, and reaching out to our communities that have been disproportionately affected.

It is also important to note that the CARES Act relief provided last year for COVID-related expenses was helpful, but it will not address the challenges ahead for our communities. Furthermore, these funds could not be used to address revenue impacts and, until the last days of 2020, they were required to be utilized before the end of the last calendar year.

We have two significant challenges ahead if we are to turn the corner from response to recovery. This includes ensuring that our local communities can support and facilitate a safe, equitable, and accessible mass-vaccination process. We must also ensure that our communities are positioned for a
strong and swift economic recovery. To achieve these goals, we know we must continue working together. It is in this spirit that we urge our congressional leaders to provide additional bipartisan support for direct, flexible fiscal relief for our frontline communities.

Thank you for all the work that you have done in 2020 to respond to this crisis. These actions were important and have helped stave off an even worse public health and economic crisis. However, there is more critical work to do and we urge you to take one more important step and support this request for direct, flexible emergency aid to local communities.

Respectfully,

OHIO MAYORS ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mayor John Cranley
City of Cincinnati

Mayor Tim J. DeGeeter
City of Parma

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther
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Mayor Christina Muryn
City of Findlay

Mayor Don Patterson
City of Kettering

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Mayor Thomas Perciak, City of Strongsville
Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, City of Toledo
Mayor William D. Franklin, City of Warren
Mayor Tito Brown, City of Youngstown
Keary McCarthy, Executive Director

CC:
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Majority Leader of the United States Senate

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader of the United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader of the United States Senate