

Inter-County Association of Western New York

Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11-IC

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL BIPARTISAN “STATE AND MUNICIPAL AID FOR RECOVERY AND TRANSITION (SMART) FUND” LEGISLATION

Offered by: the Inter-County Association of Western New York

WHEREAS, Representatives Tomas Reed (NY-23), Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11), Pete King (NY-02), Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05), Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01), Fred Upton (MI-06), Ted Lieu (CA-33), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), Debbie Dingell (MI-12), and Elise Stefanik (NY-21) announced on May 18 that they are introducing legislation “to provide robust support to state and local governments on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic;” and

WHEREAS, this bicameral, bipartisan legislation is led by Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) in the Senate, and

WHEREAS, under this proposed legislation the State and Municipal Assistance for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund will provide \$500 billion in emergency funding to every state, county and community in the country, while prioritizing assistance to the areas with the greatest need, and

WHEREAS, the SMART Fund will enhance the \$150 billion Congress provided to assist state and local governments in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, adding an additional \$500 billion in funding and eliminating the current 500,000 resident population threshold, thereby allowing every state, county, municipality, U.S. territory and the District of Columbia to qualify for direct federal assistance, regardless of its size, and

WHEREAS, under the proposed legislation, funding will be distributed to counties and municipalities based on each county's or municipality's revenue loss from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 in proportion to the combined revenue loss for all counties and municipalities in the state over this period, to ensure that adequate funding flows to counties and municipalities that are proportionately affected relative to their population, and

WHEREAS, as proposed, the SMART Fund will provide direct, flexible assistance to our local governments and municipalities to help them recover from the COVID-19 crisis and ensure that our communities continue to receive critical support throughout this crisis and beyond, and

WHEREAS, according to the independent, nonprofit, Tax Foundation, unlike the HEROES Act, which provides approximately \$1.1 trillion for state and local fiscal relief within a \$3 trillion package, the SMART Act is focused exclusively on aid to state and local governments, and it requires that states agree, as a condition of funding, that any cuts to state aid to local governments be based on an emergency need; be balanced and fair, and be justified on the basis of economic conditions in those localities, and

WHEREAS, this legislation strikes a necessary balance of providing the funding required to recover from this crisis while limiting Federal deficit spending to preserve economic growth for the next generation, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED:

1. That the Inter-County Association of Western New York hereby supports in full, and calls for passage and enactment of, the above federal bipartisan "State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund" legislation, protecting American communities across the country by ensuring they have the resources to continue providing essential public health services and safely facilitating the reopening of the nation's economy, and

2. That the Inter-County Association of Western New York Secretary is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to state representatives and all others deemed necessary and appropriate.

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 19th day of June 2020 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated June 19, 2020.



Jodi Adams, Secretary
Inter-County Association of Western New York



Sponsored by: Schuyler County, Moved by: Rondinaro (*Schuyler*), Seconded by: Barnes (*Allegany*)