



April 15, 2020

Dear PEF Member:

I hope and trust this finds you and your families safe and well! Thank you for all of your work and support as we work through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, our members have been on the front line of this war serving in key roles at every level in addressing this health care and economic crisis.

While we are very thankful for the federal support we have received so far, the health and economic crises we are facing is overtaking the ability of this state – the world’s 11th largest economy -- to respond to this crisis in both the short- and long-term. Each year, New York state sends \$46 billion more to support the federal government than it receives in return. Without immediate and significant federal financial support, New York will be forced to cut its state budget significantly at the end of this month to close a projected \$16 billion gap.

To stop this, PEF has been fighting for additional federal support in the next COVID-19 relief package. Please take a moment to reach out to your Congressional Representative and urge them to support the following as part the next COVID-19 relief package for New York.

COVID-19 Response Implementation Program

(1) COVID-19 Relief Implementation Aid

New York Request: \$16 billion

States hard hit with COVID-19 are being forced to deal with the pandemic and the economic crisis at the same time. New York state desperately needs basic operating capital to meet its ongoing COVID-19 response plans. These monies should be tied directly to funding the current state operating budget plan to ensure that the state can deliver current and future federal and state COVID-19 programming effectively and efficiently and maintain the continuity of state services during this crisis.

(2) Hazard Duty Pay for Frontline Workers

New York Request: \$100 million

Health care and other “essential” employees have been providing services directly to taxpayers and clients during this crisis – sacrificing their time, risking their lives and putting their families in harms way. These dedicated professionals require financial and other support in recognition of their service and to maintain the pool of available and capable workers to get us through the current outbreak and to deal with any future occurrence.

(3) Care Reimbursement Fund:

New York Request: \$5 million

Funding to states hardest hit by COVID-19 to cover the out-of-pocket expenses of health care workers for child care costs related to service in response to the crisis.

(4) PPE Reimbursement Fund:

New York Request: \$5 million

Funding to states hardest hit by COVID-19 to reimburse individual health care workers and other essential state employees for the costs associated with the manufacture of their own PPE.

[Please contact your member of Congress](#) today and ask that these four items be included in the next piece of legislation that provides relief for the states and individuals dealing with COVID-19. Your representative can be found at www.house.gov/representatives or by telephone at the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or PEF's Legislative Director Patrick Lyons at plyons@pef.org or (518) 424-8473 if you have any questions regarding this proposal.

Thank you again for your continued support. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

Wayne Spence
President
NYS Public Employees Federation