



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

February 23, 2021

Members of the Georgia Delegation:

As Congress considers additional aid to states to address the ongoing impact of COVID-19, I respectfully ask that funding allocations reflect the same methodology as the Coronavirus Relief Fund that was included in the CARES Act.

My top priority as Governor during the COVID-19 pandemic has been to protect both the lives and livelihoods of all Georgians. Throughout the pandemic, our state has remained open for business while effectively combating this unprecedented health crisis. Over the past year, Georgia was named the top state for business for the eighth year in a row, we maintained our coveted AAA bond rating, and we continue to break records for the number of economic development projects coming into the state. Thanks to our measured reopening, we have avoided deep cuts to state agencies, significant layoffs, furloughs - all with no new taxes to help pay for it all. Additionally, our unemployment rate has consistently stayed below the national average.

I am deeply concerned that the newest round of COVID-19 relief for states discards a formula that was negotiated between both parties in favor of a methodology without bipartisan support. The formula included in the CARES Act did not distinguish between a resident from Georgia and any other state - federal funds were distributed equally on a per capita basis.

The current formula being considered in Congress would allocate over 50% more to a resident in New York than a resident in Georgia. This is unacceptable. Georgians should not be punished by a federal government hoping to tip the scales in favor of other states who chose to decimate their own economies.

I ask that you work with your colleagues in Congress to allocate state relief funding in a fair, equitable manner that puts Georgians - not the priorities of congressional leadership or other states - first.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Kemp".

Brian P. Kemp