

STATE CAPITOL
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October 29, 2020

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Request to Extend CARES Act Funding Deadline

Dear Leader McCarthy,

As a united coalition of rural leaders in California, we write to urge your swift action to extend the December 30, 2020 deadline for the spending of CARES Act funds paid to state and local governments through 2021. This deadline extension is critical to support our communities' educational institutions and ensure our rural regions can carry on recovery efforts as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage throughout our nation.

State and local governments are still struggling to manage recovery efforts and contain the virus. The CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund has been central to this effort, providing direct aid to state and eligible local governments to fund recovery and support key institutions like schools.

Many rural schools have expressed their concern over the impending December 30, 2020 deadline to expend CARES Act funds as they will be unable to use these dollars through the 2020-21 school year. They have also expressed concern over the effect the impending deadline has on their ability to use the funds for things they are in desperate need of, such as contracts with substitute teachers and mental health support for students.

As you look at potential legislative solutions and actions to ensure that CARES Act funds can be maximized by state and local governments before expiring, we urge you to support a solution that will accommodate the needs of rural educators. Extending the expiration deadline for CARES Act funds from December 30, 2020 through 2021 is essential to the national recovery effort from the Coronavirus and we appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Megan Dahle

MEGAN DAHLE
Assemblywoman, 1st District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott W. Lay".

SCOTT W. LAY
Superintendent of Schools, Nevada County

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle Garbolino-Mojica".

Gayle Garbolino-Mojica
Superintendent of Schools, Placer County

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry R. Oestreich".

Terry R. Oestreich
Superintendent of Schools, Plumas County

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Flores".

Judy Flores
Superintendent of Schools, Shasta County

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Assembly
California Legislature

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Kermith R. Walters

Kermith Walters
Superintendent of Schools, Siskiyou County

Mike Martin

Mike Martin
Superintendent of Schools, Modoc County

Patricia A. Gunderson

Patricia Gunderson
Superintendent of Schools, Lassen County

Catherine Reimer

Catherine Reimer
Superintendent, San Ardo Union Elementary School District

Dr. Maritza Koeppen

Maritza Koeppen
Superintendent, Vallecitos School District