

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of Congress,

I am seeking your assistance in providing direct financial relief to Suffolk County in the next COVID-19 federal recovery bill. Suffolk is a populous county and has been severely affected by this virus, and the region's ability to recover from the costs incurred by the pandemic depends on what happens next.

Contrary to many other states, New York followed the CDC guidelines and flattened the curve. We did what we were told—we shut down the economy—and we hope that now what we hear from the federal government isn't, "Thank you for following the guidelines; now you pay the cost of the response." We need your help to make sure this doesn't happen.

As I understand it, Suffolk County is requesting \$1 billion in aid, a fraction of what we send to Washington. In addition, Long Island sends more dollars to Washington than it receives in return. The pandemic is no different than any other natural disaster, and the federal government must provide relief that it would provide during any natural disaster.

This is a pivotal moment for the region. We need to recover as soon as possible. Again, as I understand it, without federal aid the recovery could be extended out for a decade if not longer. The financial impact should not be borne primarily by taxpayers nor should we accept cuts to services provided by our first responders, police and other essential workers, but this is exactly what will happen without federal aid.

Thank you in advance for your help in this. Without your support the taxpayers of Suffolk County will suffer—both financially and in the reduction of necessary services.

Sincerely,